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Japan

Sources Cite Readiness To Provide USSR Loans

OW2303092491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Japan is ready to provide the Soviet Union with up to 10 billion dollars in loans and grants if Moscow recognizes Japan's sovereignty over four Soviet-held Northern islands, political sources said Saturday.

In addition, the Export-Import Bank of Japan will offer several billions of dollars in loans to help finance development projects in Soviet Siberia, said the sources within the government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

During meetings with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa will express Japan's readiness to extend massive economic assistance to the Soviet Union.

But the two men will not unveil a specific figure, the sources said.

Ozawa is due to leave Sunday for an eight-day visit to the Soviet Union and the United States for talks with Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush.

Gorbachev is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo on April 16 on a four- day state visit, becoming the first Kremlin leader ever to come to Tokyo.

Japan is expected to strongly urge Gorbachev to respond to the nation's decades-long call for the return of the four islands, off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

The Soviet Union seized the islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—immediately after World War II.

Government Considers Agreements With USSR

OW2503122091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—The government is considering signing a number of agreements between Japan and the Soviet Union in such areas as long-term economic assistance and investment protection, but the conclusion of such accords depends on the settlement of the territorial issue, government sources said Monday.

The conclusion of the agreements depends on the northern territories issue being resolved during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan on April 16-19, they said.

Another arrangement the government is looking into is one on fishing zones and rights in waters surrounding the four disputed islands off Hokkaido—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai Islet Group.

It is also looking into an aviation accord, which would increase the number of routes between the two countries, and one on environmental protection.

If the Soviet Union confirms Japan's residual sovereignty over all four of the islands, Tokyo will enter into immediate negotiations with Moscow on the conclusion of the accords, the sources said.

Japan hopes to bring in government officials in talks on the arrangement of long-term economic assistance and investment protection, which have up to now been conducted primarily by the private sector.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has said that the deepening of Japan-Soviet economic cooperation will become the source of the development of an economic bloc encompassing nations of the Asian- Pacific region.

If the northern territories issue is settled, both the government and private sector will participate in the development of natural resources in western Siberia.

Japan's entry into an investment protection agreement would guarantee the return of profits to Japan of Japanese firms that have advanced into the Soviet Union, and other rights, thus ensuring that private sector investment in the country is carried out smoothly.

Consideration of a fisheries agreement would prompt Tokyo to re- examine Japan-Soviet operating rights in the Kurile Islands and the four disputed islands off Hokkaido.

Japan will also look into a Soviet request to set up bank branches in each other's country.

Ozawa's USSR, U.S. Tour Schedule Announced

OW2303110891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party announced Saturday the Soviet and U.S. tour itinerary for its secretary general, Ichiro Ozawa.

Ozawa will leave Tokyo on Sunday and arrive in Moscow the same day.

He is scheduled to hold talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday, with Japan's demand for the return of four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido high on the agenda.

Ozawa will meet Vladimir Ivashko, deputy general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Vice President Gennadiy I. Yanayev on Tuesday.

He will leave Moscow on Wednesday for Washington, where he will have talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and President George Bush on Thursday.

He will proceed to Boston on Friday for an overnight stay before returning to Tokyo next Sunday.

Kaifu, Ozawa Meet on Islands Issue

OW2303121691 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] A meeting between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa of the Liberal Democratic Party began in Tokyo just a little while ago to coordinate views on such issues as Japan's basic stance on consultations with the Soviet side on the northern territorial problem. Mr. Ozawa will leave for a visit to the Soviet Union tomorrow.

The dinner meeting began at a little past 1800 at a Tokyo hotel. Because General Secretary Ozawa will depart tomorrow for the four-day trip to Moscow, he wants to have sufficient coordination with Prime Minister Kaifu on breaking the stalemate in practical relations between Japan and the Soviet Union as well as on the major pending issue of the northern territories prior to his talks with Soviet officials, including President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In this connection, it is observed that at the meeting held this evening, the two leaders are exchanging opinions on measures to be taken by the Japanese side, such as the manner and timetable for the return of northern territories and also ways to promote economic cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Prior to this meeting, General Secretary Ozawa made a courtesy call on former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at his private residence in Tokyo, and held talks for about 30 minutes. During this meeting, Mr. Nakasone advised that regarding the talks with President Gorbachev, it would be better to exchange opinions first on such general issues as the international situation and future Japanese-Soviet relations rather than immediately beginning with the northern territorial issue.

Further on Kaifu-Ozawa Meeting

OW2303132991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the governing Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], confirmed Saturday that Japan will stick to its demand for the return of all four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido.

Kaifu and Ozawa, emerging from a 90-minute dinner meeting on the eve of Ozawa's trip to Moscow, said they had discussed economic assistance to the Soviet Union, but declined to elaborate.

There is no change in Japan's policy on the territorial dispute, which must be resolved before dealing with issues such as establishing a peace treaty, they told reporters in separate meetings.

In recent days, however, Ozawa has said that Japan would extend financial assistance if Moscow officially recognizes that the disputed territory belongs to Japan. He has also said that the islands could be returned on a staggered schedule rather than all at once as previously demanded.

Earlier on Saturday, political sources said Japan is prepared to make available loans and grants totaling 10 billion dollars in exchange for recognition of Japan's sovereignty over Kunashiri, Shikotan, Etorofu, and the Habomai group.

Moscow could also expect an additional several billion dollars from the Export-Import Bank of Japan to finance development of Soviet Siberia, according to sources in the government and LDP.

A joint private and public-sector organization may be set up to implement economic and technical assistance, the sources said.

Both Kaifu and Ozawa stressed to reporters that Japan would not accept a return to a 1956 agreement with the Soviet Union, in which the two countries agreed that Moscow would return Shikotan and the Habomai group pending the conclusion of a peace treaty.

The Soviet Union unilaterally abandoned the agreement in 1960 to protest Tokyo's renewal of its security pact with the United States.

The Soviet Union has occupied the islands since World War II.

Ozawa said Kaifu also handed him a personal letter to deliver to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in a meeting scheduled Monday, but he did not disclose the contents.

Ozawa's meeting with Gorbachev is to lead off a four-day trip to the Soviet Union aimed at smoothing the way for the Kremlin leader's historic visit to Japan, scheduled for April 16-19.

Ozawa is also to meet with Vladimir Ivashko, deputy general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Vice President Gennadiy I. Yanaev on Tuesday, before flying to Washington on Wednesday for talks the following day with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

Ozawa said he did not discuss in detail the U.S. leg of his eight-day trip with Kaifu, who is due to meet Bush in California on April 4.

Ozawa Leaves for Moscow

OW2403042591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The Secretary General of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Ichiro Ozawa, left for Moscow Sunday for talks with Soviet leaders to find a solution to a 46-year-old territorial dispute between the two countries.

He will fly to the United States after Moscow.

Ozawa, who embarked on the eight-day visit by chartered flight, will meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday to lay the groundwork for summit talks between Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in mid-April.

Ozawa will press Gorbachev to recognize Japan's sovereignty over northern islands off eastern Hokkaido—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets which the Soviet Union seized immediately after World War II.

He is expected to offer massive economic assistance to the Soviet Union if the Soviet Union accepts the Japanese position, LDP sources said.

Following the meeting with Gorbachev, Ozawa will meet Vladimir Ivashko, Deputy General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev on Tuesday.

He will travel to Washington from Moscow Wednesday, and meet with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker on Thursday.

Ozawa is expected to return to Tokyo on Sunday after visiting Boston.

Soviets Deploy More Backfire Bombers in Far East

OW2303110591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0840 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—The number of Soviet TU-22M Backfire bombers deployed in the Soviet Far East has increased to over 100 from some 85 during the past year, Defense Agency sources said Saturday.

They said the agency obtained this figure from Western military sources.

Other Japanese military sources said the Soviet Union has been redeploying its forces from west of the Urals to the Far East because of progress in European conventional arms reduction talks.

Last year, the Defense Agency said in a white paper that about 85 Backfire bombers were based east of Lake Baikal and in the coastal region facing the Soviet far eastern island of Sakhalin.

Backfire bombers have a combat radius of about 4,000 kilometers and are capable of carrying AS-4 air-to-ground or ship missiles.

The Soviets have some 360 Backfire bombers and produce another 30 or so every year, the sources said.

The Soviet Union first deployed the bombers in the Far East in 1979, and their number had been stable at around 85 since 1985, they said.

The sources called the increased deployment of backfires a threat to the country and said Japan needs ships equipped with the Aegis Command and Weapons Control System, as well as Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft.

Gorbachev To Address Students During Visit

OW2303103891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0941 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will deliver a speech in Tokyo before university students when he visits Japan from April 16-19, university sources said.

Six universities—Waseda University, Ritsumeikan University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Keio University, Tokai University, and Soka University—had planned to invite Gorbachev to their universities separately.

Officials of the six universities agreed to jointly host a lecture by Gorbachev at a Tokyo hotel at the request of the Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Government, the sources said.

The date and the subject of his speech have not been set but Gorbachev will make a one-hour speech before an audience of 300, the sources said.

Foreign Minister's U.S. Visit Continues

Meets Trade Representative

OW2303002191 Tokyo KYODO in English 2309 GMT 22 Mar 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 22 KYODO—U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills called on Japan Friday to lower tariffs on forest products, beer and fish, officials said.

Hills made the request in a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama as she explained the U.S. Administration's efforts to secure a two-year extension of fast track authority for Uruguay Round and North American free trade agreements.

A Japanese official said Hills mentioned market access and services as areas where Japan should make concessions if the Uruguay Round is to be successfully concluded.

Nakayama told her that Japan will see if it is possible to cut tariffs on forest products. He also said Japan will be more flexible on the financial services sector, the official said at a briefing.

Nakayama said the Japanese House of Representatives last week passed legislation which would impose a 6 percent surcharge on violations of the antimonopoly law and would stiffen penalties. Those measures, however, U.S. critics say are too low to deter monopolistic activities.

Hills also took issue with keiretsu or business groupings, and the rights of stockholders in Japanese companies,

which are issues in the ongoing Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks with Japan.

A senior U.S. official said the two countries will meet in Tokyo in late May to write the first SII evaluation report.

He also said U.S. and Japanese officials will meet in the United States. After a summit between President George Bush and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in California on April 4.

In response to U.S. complaints that American construction firms are denied fair access to the Japanese market, Nakayama told Hills that U.S. companies have done 300 million dollars worth of business under a bilateral construction pact, said one Japanese official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

At the end of the meeting with Nakayama, the official said, Hills listed the status of foreign lawyers in Japan, computers, paper and rice imports as fields of strong interest to the U.S.

Gives News Conference

OW2303002391 Tokyo KYODO in English 2349 GMT 22 Mar 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 22 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama underlined close cooperation with the United States on Friday, dismissing the argument that Washington is giving a cold shoulder to its largest military ally in Asia.

At a news conference, which was delayed 40 minutes by a bomb scare, Nakayama hailed President George Bush's leadership in marshaling an international coalition to suppress "the wanton acts" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

"As allies, we have close cooperation, maintaining frequent exchanges of views," Nakayama said after two days of what he called valuable talks with President George Bush, his top advisers, and congressional leaders.

Officials said Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will meet President Bush in California on April 4 to underscore that cooperation.

Nakayama told reporters that the Japanese Government plans to "intensify political dialogue" with Israel to help bring about stability in the Middle East. He said he will visit Tel Aviv soon.

Despite his upbeat assessment of U.S.-Japan relations, Nakayama acknowledged that Japan's refusal to permit an exhibition of American rice at a recent food fair near Tokyo has become "a big issue" in bilateral relations.

The incident was one of the key topics for discussion in Nakayama's separate talks with Bush and Baker on Thursday.

At the news conference, however, Nakayama said the exhibition was banned under the Japanese Food Control Law.

He said the rice issue will be dealt with under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. "Japan is the world's largest net food importer," and the nation provides 49 percent of its own food, and just 32 percent of its grain, he said.

Earlier in the day, House Speaker Thomas Foley told Nakayama that trade issues between the two countries will keep bilateral relations tense.

Japanese officials said Foley called on Japan to step up efforts to bring the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion

Nakayama also met with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney before laying a wreath at the Arlington National Cemetery to pay respects to American war dead.

As part of the Uruguay Round, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said in her meeting with Nakayama, the U.S. wants Japan to lower tariffs on forest products, beer, and fish, a Japanese official said.

She also pressed Japan to take additional measures to liberalize its financial services market.

A senior U.S. trade official said new Japanese steps to combat antimonopoly practices are insufficient. The measures include a 6 percent surcharge, a level still considered low against the U.S. request of at least 10 percent to deter monopolistic activities.

Hills told Nakayama that the U.S. wants to resolve other trade issues such as the status of foreign lawyers in Japan, computers, papers, rice, and the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII), as well as semiconductors and construction.

A senior U.S. official said the two countries have postponed the next informal SII meeting, originally scheduled for April 1 in the U.S., until April 9 or May 2-3.

Another U.S. official said it would be difficult to hold the SII session immediately after the Bush-Kaifu meeting in California.

Meets U.S. Defense Secretary

OW2303002591 Tokyo KYODO in English 2311 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 22 KYODO—The security treaty between the United States and Japan is the linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia and Pacific region, U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday.

In a Pentagon meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Cheney hailed Japan's financial contributions to the allied forces in the Persian Gulf war against Iraq, officials said.

The meeting took place the same day Japan transmitted its first installment of 5.7 billion dollars, out of a 9 billion dollar pledge. Japan has promised to contribute roughly 13 billion dollars to the allied forces and Gulf states hit by the war.

Nakayama told Cheney that under a new host nation support agreement, Japan will spend 100,000 dollars for each U.S. soldier annually within five years, compared to 60,000 dollars at present.

A Japanese official said that Nakayama commented on Japan's relations with the Soviet Union and told Cheney the Soviets are seeking management expertise and financial aid from Tokyo.

Remarks on Gorbachev Visit

OW2403034191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 24 Mar 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] New York, March 23 KYODO—Japan will measure the success of President Mikhail Gorbachev's trip to Tokyo next month by his willingness to return all four Soviet-held northern islands, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said in New York Saturday.

"The issue is whether the Soviet leadership can demonstrate its willingness to turn over the islands" off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, Nakayama said before heading home after a four- day stay to the United States.

Nakayama, speaking at a breakfast meeting with reporters, complained about moves in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to push for a phased return of the four islands in exchange for Japanese economic assistance.

The foreign minister said the Japanese Government has not formally been consulted about a series of the LDP proposals on resolving the territorial dispute, which began when the Soviet Union seized Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan islands, and the Habomai group of islets immediately after World War II.

"Eventually the northern territories issue has to be settled between the two governments," and the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has no plans to change the longstanding policy that all four islands should return to Japanese control at once, he said.

LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who is visiting Moscow Sunday through Wednesday, is widely expected in Japan to urge Gorbachev to recognize Japan's sovereignty over the islands in exchange for massive economic assistance.

LDP Deputy Secretary General Koko Sato visited the Soviet Far East island of Sakhalin earlier this week and proposed a phased return of the disputed islands.

The Foreign Ministry, calling for the return of the islands en bloc, has long maintained that Japan and the Soviet Union should conclude a peace treaty after resolving the territorial dispute.

A step-by-step approach, advanced by some LDP and business leaders, seeks the immediate return of the Habomais and Shikotan and the later reversion of Etorofu and Kunashiri.

Nakayama said he and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will make final preparations next week in Tokyo for Gorbachev's historic visit to Japan April 16-19.

Bessmertnykh is scheduled to visit Japan March 29-31 to prepare the final details of Gorbachev's visit.

Nakayama also said he hopes to visit Israel, Iran, and other Persian Gulf nations to discuss the postwar situation.

The visits probably will be about the time he attends an annual ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris in June.

Additionally, he said he is considering a trip to China and Vietnam in the next several weeks.

U.S. Secretary James Baker, with whom Nakayama met in Washington on Thursday, specifically asked Japan to discourage China and North Korea from selling missiles to the volatile Middle East region. "We were in full accord with the U.S.," Nakayama said.

Nakayama said he came away from talks with President George Bush, Secretary of State Baker, and other U.S. leaders with the impression that trade will be the dominant issue in Japan-U.S. relations in coming months.

Bush has agreed to meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Los Angeles on April 4.

Nakayama, referring to a controversy over a display of American rice at a food fair in Chiba City near Tokyo, said Japan does not want the episode to jeopardize good relations with the U.S.

"We don't want to cause a forest fire with a single match," he said, repeating Japan's readiness to negotiate its ban on rice imports under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

During the meeting with Baker, Nakayama sought and won U.S. support for a Japanese campaign to drop the enemy clause from the United Nations charter. Japanese officials said the clause alludes to Japan and Germany.

Nakayama said Japan will also ask other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—Britain, France, China, and the Soviet Union—to back its campaign.

The foreign minister left New York for home Saturday evening after meeting with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

U.S. Dairy Trade Talks End Without Agreement

OW2303045091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO—Japan and the United States ended one-day talks in Washington on U.S. access to Japan's dairy market Friday without any agreement, government officials said Saturday.

According to officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Japanese and U.S. negotiators remained split over Japan's import restrictions on starch and milk products with the Japanese brushing off U.S. demands that the regulations be scrapped.

Washington has been urging Tokyo to follow the 1988 recommendations of a mediating panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and lift the import curbs.

But Japan has insisted that it cannot do so at least until the conclusion of GATT-sponsored international trade talks known as the Uruguay Round.

During the meeting, the U.S. delegation also asked Japan to increase its import quotas for U.S. beans and peanuts, but Japan's negotiators rejected the request, saying the current supply-demand situation does not warrant the measure, the officials said.

The two sides will meet again sometime in the future on the issue, but no specific timetable has been set, they said.

Spokesman Remarks on Iraq Cabinet Reshuffle

OW2503041591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Japan's government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Monday that Iraqi president Saddam Husayn's cabinet reshuffle Saturday would not alter Japan's stance toward Iraq.

"Even if there is a new prime minister, President Husayn is still in place, and it is hard to believe there has been a change in the Husayn government's attitudes." Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Asked about the possibility of assisting Iraq's economic recovery, Sakamoto said "we will continue to watch political developments carefully."

Japan has said it is prepared to offer aid to Iraq for reconstruction, but only after the Iraqi leadership demonstrates it is able to rejoin the international community.

The United States has said that it cannot normalize relations with Iraq unless Husayn is out of the government.

Radio Baghdad announced over the weekend that Husayn appointed Hammadi Sa'dun as prime minister, a post which Husayn himself had filled since coming to power in 1979, and included three kurds in the cabinet. Hammadi is a member of Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority, while Husayn and most other top officials are Sunni Muslims.

Analysts have said that the move was aimed at gaining support from groups that are posing the stiffest resistance to Husayn in uprisings since the end of the Persian Gulf war.

North Korea

U.S. 'Pressure' on Market Opening in South Noted

SK2203153691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry in South Korea submitted to the home administration and Congress an annual commerce report recommending them to put pressure on the South Korean authorities to open financial, stock, insurance, circulation, farm products, communications and other markets and simplify the customs formalities in South Korea, a radio report from Seoul said.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry in South Korea is one of the tools of U.S. imperialism for economic aggression and colonial extortion. It supervises and grasps on the spot the economic situation of South Korea, informs the mainland of it and actively defends the interests of the U.S. monopolies which have infiltrated into South Korea.

The opinions of this Chamber have so far been accepted by the U.S. Administration and Congress and put into practice.

The puppets scream that the U.S. pressure on South Korea to open markets would grow with the submission of this report.

Paper Says U.S. 'Eager' for World Leadership

SK2503053991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 25 Mar 91

["Arrogance of U.S. Imperialism Heading for War Adventure" —KCNA headline]

[TEXT] Pyonygang March 25 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists have become haughtiest ever and are eager to be the "leader" of the world, fully revealing their true color as the chieftain of aggression and war, the boss of the world reaction today, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article entitled "Arrogance of U.S. Imperialism Heading for War Adventure."

Noting that "cosmopolitism" and "global order", and "leading role" and "responsibility" of the United States in the world claimed by the bosses of U.S. imperialism well show the nature of U.S. imperialism, the aggressor, running to extremes in arrogance.

The U.S. imperialists, fanatics of strength, are overconfident that the United States can do anything if it is determined to, and no one can match it because it is the "mightiest" being. Urged by this overconfidence, they want to lord it over in all countries of the world and, to this end, freely commit aggressive and interventionist acts against other countries.

It is needless to say that when the haughty and outrageous attitude of the U.S. imperialists are linked with an armed action, it is fraught with a great danger of a new war.

The situation on the Korean peninsula tells this.

The U.S. imperialists have turned South Korea into a colony and a hotbed of a nuclear war and staged "team spirit" joint military exercises every year, occupying a half of our country and keeping Korea divided for nearly half a century. It is well known that the war exercises are aimed at unleashing a nuclear war in Korea and realising the anti-DPRK, anti-socialist Asia-Pacific strategy of the U.S. imperialists.

The immediate object of the United States following the Mid-east conflict is to ignite a war of aggression on the Korean peninsula.

The arrogance, the wrong judgement that the world balance of forces is turning in their favour and the unrealistic fantasy of "superiority of strength" of the United States are pushing the U.S. ruling circles toward igniting another adventurous war.

The test nuclear war called "team spirit" carries the danger of such adventurous folly.

If the U.S. imperialists dare start a new war against the Korean people, it will only lead them to destruction.

Reportage on Team Spirit Exercises Continues

Soviet Officer Said To Comment

SK2303020291 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] According to a report by Moscow Radio, recently, Rear Admiral (Chaichev), deputy chief of the staff of the Soviet Red Flag Pacific Fleet, issued a statement denouncing the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise which is being conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

He first of all revealed that all kinds of weapons including nuclear weapons and a large number of forces are being mobilized for the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise which is being conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. He also said that from a military point of view, this joint military exercise enhances our vigilance.

He said that due to the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the North-South high-level talks were suspended and the complicated situation on the Korean peninsula became further aggravated. He emphasized that the Korean peninsula remains as the most dangerous place where military operations can start.

19 Mar Aerial Exercise Noted

SK2303044191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group on March 19 staged another round of provocative nuclear air strike exercise against the northern half of Korea as part of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to military sources.

That day, the U.S. imperialists let formations of Guam-based nuclear-capable B-52 strategic bombers fly in the sky above Asan Bay at ultralow altitude for an aerial war exercise aimed at a surprise nuclear strike at the targets in the depths of our side.

On the same day, they brought nuclear-capable F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers from the U.S. mainland and their bases in the Pacific to the skies above Kunwi and Chikdo for the "Team Spirit 91" war games and let them stage a large-scale joint nuclear air strike and ground target hitting joint exercise against the North with the support of formations of fighter-bombers and observation planes of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce.

The U.S. imperialist forces of aggression and the South Korean puppet army staged a ground offensive operation for a long time in Yangpyong and Yoju under the support of F-15, F-16, A-10 and OA-10 planes.

On the same day, an E-3A AWACS plane based in Kadena, Japan, flew above South Korea on two occasions, conducting aerial espionage on the depths of our side and commanding flying corps mobilized in the "Team Spirit 91" exercises.

Between March 19 and 20, the U.S. imperialists let high-altitude strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes make shuttle flights on eight occasions for an aerial espionage on the areas of our side.

'Full-Scale Stage' Entered

SK2303233091 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0020 GMT 20 Mar 91

[NODONG SINMUN 21 March "special article": "Aerial Operation Exercise by the U.S. Imperialists for Northward Aggression"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The situation on the Korean peninsula today is very tense and complicated due to the U.S. imperialists' aggression and war maneuvers.

As reported, the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise has entered a full-scale stage. A large number of aerial and ground forces, including strategic bombers, fighter bombers, attack planes, pursuit attack planes, electronic interception planes, transport planes, and refueling planes such as the F-16, F-15, FA-18, C-130, KC-135, and B-52 are being brought into South Korea in large numbers from the U.S. mainland, Japan, and the bases in the Pacific region.

A group of vessels, including guided missile cruisers, guided missile destroyers, escort ships, submarines, and landing ships, are being moved and deployed around various ports in South Korea, thus carrying out actual exercises.

The planes that are being mobilized for the aerial operation exercise which is being rigorously carried out throughout South Korea amounts to over 500 planes on the average in just one day.

Currently, the Team Spirit-91 war exercise is further being carried out in a heated atmosphere and is being expanded step by step. What is noteworthy is the fact that the aerial operation exercise is being carried out in an especially hysterical way in South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists are attaching great importance to the air-strike operation which is to make a surprise attack on the northern half of the Republic. The Team Spirit war exercise is a preliminary war and nuclear trial war opposing our Republic.

It is a well known fact that the U.S. imperialists declared the Korean peninsula, which is directly linked to the Asian Continent and which is their colonial military base, to be a pivotal region for making the Korean peninsula a vital region for United States interests and for realizing their Asia-Pacific strategy.

Currently, the U.S. imperialists are working to control the northern half of our Republic, which firmly adheres to the revolutionary position and socialist principle, and are working to establish U.S.-style order on the Korean peninsula. These are being put forth as pending tasks for the strategy toward Asia.

With this kind of criminal purpose, even though the U.S. imperialists are carrying out an appeasement policy toward other regions, they are further moving to strain the situation on the Korean peninsula which is the most critical place in the world.

They are babbling about the modernization and military balance of the aggressive forces in this region and are continuing to bring in and deploy new up-to-date large murderous weapons and operational equipment into South Korea. Also, under the pretext of restraining someone's southward invasion, they are further hysterical in carrying out the adventurous war exercise. What is being carried out with greater danger and graveness is the aerial operation exercise to invade the North.

There is a plausible reason for the U.S. imperialists to give priority in carrying out the aerial operation exercise in South Korea. This is mainly explained by the fact that a new military doctrine was introduced into the aggressive operations of the U.S. forces.

In recent years, the U.S. imperialists have been carrying out the criminal war exercises by mainly depending on their aggressive military bases in foreign countries. Therefore, the U.S. military bosses said that a strike from the air and ground is the basis and that the so-called principle of air-to-ground warfare must be introduced in the operations.

The principle of air-to-ground warfare which has been applied to the U.S. military operations since the eighties is to combine conventional weapons and nuclear weapons and, using the entire enemy's territory as their target area, to rigorously attack the frontline and the rear area simultaneously.

Even here, the U.S. imperialists are giving priority to the aerial operation exercises. This is because they believe that air superiority is the only means of minimizing human and material damage and that this can further enhance operational effectiveness. This kind of tactic was applied when the U.S. imperialists invaded Panama and also during the Gulf war. They are trying to introduce this kind of tactic to our country.

The U.S. imperialists are trying to achieve in the shortest time the armed invasion of our Republic, which they oppose. Proof of this is that they babble about a three-day war plan, a five-day operational plan, and a short-term severe strike operation on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists are trying to destroy and paralyze our communications and operations command system and our military capability at a single stroke through a sudden surprise attack from the air and are also trying to achieve their war purpose easily and quickly.

The U.S. imperialists are giving priority to the aerial operation in the war to invade the North because of the geographical features of Korea. They have already completed an aerial operational plan for a fierce strike at the northern half of Korea in case of an emergency, claiming that they must rely mainly on the air force with high maneuverability and strike efficiency, given the topography of Korea, which has many mountains and rivers.

Their unprecedented frantic aerial war exercises these days show that this adventurous plan has reached the full-fledged stage.

During the past few years, the number of the U.S. imperialists' aerial operations exercise has increased substantially. Throughout last year, the U.S. imperialists held aerial war exercises almost every day in South Korea. Military analysts assess that there is no time that compares to last year in the frequency of aerial operations exercises since the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea began.

This year, from early January up until now, the aerial war exercises are being carried out one after another. Foreign media say that during the period of the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, the aerial exercises will be given the greatest emphasis.

What also draws attention in the U.S. imperialists' air-strike operations exercises is that their scale and the scope of the targets of operation are expanding.

In the past, the U.S. imperialists mainly carried out the aerial exercise in South Korea limiting it to the aerial forces in this region except during the Team Spirit war exercise. However, during the past few years, the U.S. imperialists have been bringing in extended means for aerial strikes that are deployed near South Korea, so that almost all aerial war exercises can be carried out and they are greatly expanding the scale by carrying out combined operational exercises.

This is proven by the fact that they are unprecedentedly strengthening aerial war commotions by bringing into South Korea large-scale means for aerial strikes such as various reconnaissance planes, assault helicopters, assault planes, fighter bombers, and strategic bombers that are deployed in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.

Through this kind of exercise, the U.S. imperialists are strengthening the combined operational system so that the U.S. Air Force in foreign countries can become familiar with our country's topography and climate; improve the capability of carrying out the operations; and be ready in case of an emergency of a forced aggression against South Korea. Also, the whole area of the northern half of the Republic is the object of their operations. The airborne operation is one of the keys to the U.S. imperialists' operation of a preemptive strike to invade the North.

Recently, the U.S. imperialists mobilized a formation of transport planes, including large C-130 and C-141 transport planes, which are regarded as the fortress of the sky, so that the U.S. forces based in foreign countries could carry out the mobilized deployment exercises and the airborne operations exercises in South Korea.

By this method, the U.S. imperialists who regard mobilized aerial transportation as important are trying to carry out a speedy operation by bringing in the aggressive forces and special operational forces from the U.S. mainland and the Asia-Pacific region to the frontline and to the back line quickly, in case of an emergency on the Korean peninsula.

This suggests that the U.S. imperialists' war preparations to invade the North is in a very grave stage and that this is a dangerous preliminary war in which the Team Spirit war exercise can lead to actual warfare any time.

What is particularly serious is the fact that the U.S. imperialists are scheming to mount an aerial nuclear preemptive strike toward the northern half of our Republic.

The U.S. imperialists who place great hope on nuclear attack operations in a war in Korea, are feverishly staging preliminary nuclear attack operations, including nuclear bombing, nuclear missile launching exercises, and airlifting of special nuclear units deep into the northern half of Korea with the mobilization of numerous means of nuclear attack.

It is common sense that the U.S. imperialists, who confirmed the tactics of a vigorous aerial surprise attack during the Gulf war, can carry it out again in Korea.

If the U.S. imperialists move down the road toward war to the very end in Korea regardless of our repeated warnings, they will not be able to escape serious defeat which is incomparable to what they suffered during the Korean war.

Those who like playing with fire are certain to die from fire. The U.S. imperialists must act with discretion.

Factory Workers Denounce Exercise

SK2303044291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—Voices denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are ringing out from all parts of the northern half of Korea.

Meetings to condemn the military exercises were held at the industrial establishments including the Tanchon Magnesia Factory and the Pyongyang Shoemaking Factory and on cooperative farms.

The speakers said that the Korean people would never tolerate the reckless war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group. If they unleash another war on this land, the Korean people will revenge upon them a hundred, a thousand fold, they stressed.

The speakers at an employees' meeting of the Tanchon Magnesia Factory said the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises are, in all respects, a preliminary war, a test nuclear war for a preemptive strike at the northern half of Korea. If the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group persistently seek a war of aggression, they will get only corpses and deaths, they warned.

The speakers at an employees' meeting of the Pyongyang Shoemaking Factory said that the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists clearly prove they have not yet given up the policy of "strength".

They demanded that the U.S. imperialist aggressors stop the joint military exercises and get out of South Korea, taking along all their aggression forces and nuclear weapons.

SKNDF Issues 'Open Letter' to People 18 Mar

SK2203153091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1504 GMT 22 Mar 91

["Hanminjon Issues Open Letter to the Whole People"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) [SKNDF] on March 18 issued an "Open letter to the whole people" concerning the "local assembly elections", according to Radio Voice of National Salvation.

The letter says the No Tae-u ruling quarters decided to move up the date of the "local assembly elections" and divide the elections into two stages, leaving the democratic forces unprepared for them. This surprise holding of "the local assembly elections" is a product of a big political plot by the No ruling group, it notes.

Exposing the fact that the No Tae-uo ruling group has massively hurled the "government power" into the elections to rig the "winning" of ruling party-lining candidates, the open letter declares the No fascist "regime of the Sixth Republic" has neither qualification nor capacity to administer the "local autonomy elections."

It is a shameless deception and mockery of the people by those bereft of political conscience to cover up the shocking scandal and try to hush it up with the "elections", the letter notes and continues:

The truth behind the Suso scandal must be dug up to the bottom and No Tae-u and the "Democratic Liberal Party" seeking to cover it up be denounced in the name of the people of course.

It is a trite political game of the No Tae-u ruling group to rig "elections" with illicitly raised money and lay a foothold for long-term office with corrupt political practices.

The election struggle must be waged undauntedly in the teeth of the suppression of campaigning perpetrated under the cloak of "fair elections" and it be turned into an anti-No Tae-u, anti-"DLP" struggle.

There is no other way but to overthrow the No Tae-u "government" and set up an independent and democratic government, if the choking atmosphere in which violent policy and intelligence policy have gone to extremes is to be ended and the democratic civil rights of the people are to be attained.

All the parties, groupings, figures of various circles and people of all walks [of] life, irrespective of political view, party affiliation and place of residence must unite closely under the banner of independence, democracy and reunification and decisively smash the plot of the No Tae-u ruling group to prolong its office.

DLP's 'Meddling' in Local Elections Denounced

SK2303052191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0445 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today notes that illegal acts of meddling of the "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) in the "elections" are being brought to light one after another in South Korea, causing a big stir.

Speaking at a press conference on March 20, a candidate of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) made public the fact that the vice-chairman of the North Cholla provincial office of the "DLP" who was running against him in Hungdok Myon, Kochang County, urged him to give up candidacy with a promise to offer 100 million won in cash and 50 million won as interest-free "business fund." And the chairman of the PPD committee for measures against "government" power-controlled elections exposed on the same occasion that a candidate of the "DLP" registered in Kumi City, North Kyongsang Province, distributed shirts, soap and the like to tong officials, "crime prevention corps members," tong chiefs and heads of neighbourhood units to use them as his "canvassers."

This is an "election" campaign not confined to one or two candidates of the "DLP," but it is a mere part of the "DLP's" illegal intervention in the "elections" in all parts of South Korea, the news analyst says, and goes on:

Not content with alms-giving, claptrap tactics and "government"-backed acts of violence, the No Tae-u group is trying by hook or by crook to bar figures of the opposition, dissident and other circles from running for the elections with the mobilization of even secret agents of the "Security Planning Board" and the "Secret Affairs Command" of the puppet army.

The "DLP's" illegal meddling in the "elections" and its campaign are heinous political gangsterism and fraud aimed at turning the "basic assembly elections" again into an exclusive theatre of fascists, a gambling-den of political mountebanks and, furthermore, at making even the "local assemblies" tools for its solo-play.

Facts show that the traitor No and his "DLP" clan are obsessed with greed for power and they are highway robbers who stoop to any infamy to satisfy their brigandish ambition and political avarice.

Genuine democratic elections, fair elections cannot be expected under the U.S. imperialists' colonial domination and the No group's military fascist dictatorship.

Further Reportage on Defector From ROK

KCNA Interviews South Defector

SK2503112991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1033 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA)—"The minds of the fellow countrymen in the South always run towards

the North and towards respected President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il," said Kang Hun-ku on March 15 when he met a KCNA reporter. He came over to the northern half of the country in April last year.

Noting that South Korean publications give large space to news of the northern half of the country and it is not uncommon for students to study the chuche idea, he said: Witnessing and experiencing these facts, I realized that President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il are the brain of the nation, the centripetal point of the nation and the people in the North are evenly well off because they shape true people-first policy.

Answering the reporter's question what impressed and moved him most among the things he saw and felt after he came over to the North, he said it is the noble traits of leadership of the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il who is fulfilling his duties as a loyal subject and filial son for President Kim Il-song and for the country and the people.

The North is dynamically stepping up socialist construction without vacillation despite the complex situation and persistent manoeuvres of the separatists to create "two Koreas". This is because Mr. Kim Chong-il, the heir to President Kim Il-song, shapes correct lines and policies, upholding the banner of chuche, he said.

Noting that the dear leader constantly enforces popular policies, he said the fellow countrymen in the South know this well and, therefore, their mind always runs towards the North.

Pyongyang People Welcome Defector

SK2303121991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang mass meeting was held today to welcome Kim Yu-chan who was private first class of the fourth platoon of the Joint Security Corps of the U.N. Forces before defecting to the northern half of the country.

The young South Korean defector was awarded an order of the DPRK and a large sum of monetary prize together with souvenirs at the meeting.

In his welcome speech, Sin An-pang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, warmly welcomed Kim Yu-chan in the name of the Pyongyang citizens, praising his break with South Korean society, a colony of U.S. imperialism, and his humiliating mercenary service and his defection to the DPRK as a truly patriotic act for the country and the nation.

Kim Chong-un, who served as a Katusa [Korean attached to U.S. Army] soldier in South Korea before defecting to the northern half and is now leading a happy life, made a congratulatory speech, warmly hailing Kim Yu-chan who parted with the southern society, a colony, and came over to the DPRK.

Speaking in reply, Kim Yu-chan said:

Here in the North, I am convinced that my option is absolutely right.

What impressed me most is that the spirit of national independence is alive in the North.

The slogan "Long live the great chuche idea!" inscribed on the mountain slope was the first to be seen when I looked toward the North while on duty at Panmunjom.

In the North, I have seen that everyone talks about the chuche idea and lives as required by this idea.

The North is a peaceful land of bliss. In the South war games are held and the roar of warplanes is heard every day while in the North only the buzzing of machines is heard from peaceful construction sites.

Soldiers of the People's Army work at construction sites of residential houses and factories.

The North is so peaceful. Yet the rulers of South Korea spread a false propaganda that the North would "invade the South."

Through my experience, I have clearly realized that there exists no "threat from the North" but threat from the South. What also impressed me deeply is that all people live in harmony, helping and leading one another along. Deeply rooted in the North are noble relations among people: They devote and sacrifice themselves for the sake of society and the collective and other people.

The South Korean people deeply revere the great General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il as the sun of the nation and valiantly turn out in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification, looking up to the North as a beacon of hope, despite the harsh rule of fascist dictatorship.

Kim Yu-chan called on his fellow Katusa soldiers and all servicemen of South Korea to resolutely turn the guns to the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their stooges, the No Tae-u group.

CPRF Denounces South's Treatment of Students

SK2503053491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0435 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA)—The secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] published Information No. 586 Sunday denouncing the South Korean authorities for suppressing patriotic students after announcing a false "case of the Group for the Promotion of National Reunification."

On March 22, notes the Information, the puppet Security Planning Board announced that a "secret underground organization" called "the Group for the Promotion of National Reunification" "secretly sent to the North" woman student Yim Su-kyong and "manipulated behind the scene students' anti-U.S. reunification struggle," and detained six persons including the central committee member of the "group" Hong Sun-chol on the suspicion of "forming an organization benefiting the enemy" by invoking the "National Security Law."

The puppet Security Planning Board, describing this organization as "secret underground organization" calling for "reunification through communization," charges it with preposterous crimes such as "secret entry into the North," "manipulation behind the scene," "listening to radio of Hanminjon [South Korean National Democratic Front]" and the like.

This is an unpardonable anti-communist plot to impose a harsher penalty on coed Yim Su-kyong whom they are illegally detaining and stifle the reunification movement of patriotic students by inventing a pretext to suppress Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives].

In faking up the case, denying too clear facts, the South Korean authorities seek to get out of the crisis into which it has been driven by the growing sentiments for reunification among the people, the Suso scandal and people's anti-"government" struggle mounting across South Korea by occasioned "local elections in small districts."

They can never bridge over the crisis or evade destruction by anti-communism and intrigues.

The No Tae-u ruling group must not make desperate efforts to prolong its dirty remaining days but step down without delay as demanded by all the South Korean students and people.

Refusal To Deliver Red Cross Letters Denounced

SK2403085491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0815 GMT 24 Mar 91

["Act Obstructing Reconciliation and Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 24 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a few days ago requested the South Korean Red Cross to convey letters of three public organizations including the Central Committee of the General Federation of Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea to four organizations of South Korea including the General Federation of National Artists and the National Teachers Union. But the South Korean Red Cross refused it under an absurd pretext, which compelled the North's organizations to send the letters over radio.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

This rude act on the part of the South Korean Red Cross side is an act never to be pardoned which reflects the anti-national, anti-reunification stand of the No Tae-u ruling quarters opposing the dialogue and detente between the North and the South and reunification and seeking confrontation, war and split.

Noting that the South Korean authorities quite often twaddle about "dialogue between the authorities", the news analyst goes on: This reveals their sinister intention to monopolize the dialogue.

By discarding the basic principle of the International Red Cross and refusing to convey the letters, the South Korean Red Cross side stripped itself naked as an out-and-out tool and marionette following the nation-splitting manoeuvres of the authorities.

Anniversary of 'Patriotic Idea of Chiwon' Noted

SK2303120291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1027 GMT 23 Mar 91

["Idea of Chiwon (Aim High) Setting Far-Reaching Aims for Future"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 3 (KCNA)—Today (March 23) is the 74th anniversary of the formation of the Korean National Association (KNA), an anti-Japanese underground revolutionary organisation, by Kim Hyong-chik, an indomitable revolutionary fighter and an outstanding leader of the anti- Japanese national liberation movement in Korea.

Kim Hyong-chik educated the younger generation in the patriotic idea of chiwon, while living in Ponghwa-ri, Kangdong County, Pyongyang, from the spring of 1916 to the autumn of 1917, and formed "KNA" on March 23, 1917, in Pyongyang, led it, laying a mass foundation for the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle by rallying the people.

Political, public and academic figures of various countries highly praise the noble exploits performed by Kim Hyong-chik, while visiting the historic site in Ponghwa-ri.

Marta Suzana Soya, head of a television cameramen's group of Cuba, said that the family of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has been a revolutionary family strong in consciousness of independence from generation to generation.

The head of the group went on to say:

Kim Hyong-chik maintained the firm independent stand that to save the fellow countrymen who were languishing under the Japanese imperialist colonial yoke, the entire Korean nation should unite and fight, believing in its own strength. He rallied the whole nation under the banner of national independence and made an undying contribution to developing the Korean national liberation movement on to a new higher stage.

The head of a Malian delegation for the study of the chuche idea said that the revolutionary spirit of Korea has deep historical roots. The strong revolutionary spirit of Kim Hyong-chik and his lofty aims of "chiwon" have brilliantly been carried forward by the great Comrade Kim Il-song, bringing liberation to Korea at last.

Jose Francisco Aguilar Bulgarelli, a political activist of Costa Rica, stressed that the idea of "chiwon" of Kim Hyong-chik, an indomitable revolutionary fighter, inspires people with lofty aims for the future.

Frank Lumpkin, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party of the United States of America, said: Kim Hyong-chik fought for the future of the working people, not for himself anytime and anywhere.

We wholeheartedly hail the successful realization of the lofty aim of Kim Hyong-chik on the soul of Korea today.

Kim Il-song Engravings on Monuments Described

SK2503114391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1038 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA)—The Korean people have engraved handwritings of the great leader President Kim Il-song associated with his glorious and brilliant revolutionary history and immortal revolutionary feats and his noble loving care of the country and people on monumental edifices and natural rocks so as to hand them down through all ages.

At the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery in Mt. Taesong on the outskirts of Pyongyang there is a monument autographed by the great leader reading: "The noble revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs will be kept alive forever in the hearts of our party and people. Kim Il-song, October 10, 1985".

The great leader, out of the sense of revolutionary obligations to the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who laid down their lives in the sacred struggle for the liberation of the country and freedom and happiness of the people, saw to it that the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery was built on Chujak Peak of Mt. Taesong and personally wrote the epitaph.

A monument bearing his handwriting was also erected on the West Sea Barrage which was built by damming off the rough sea extending 8 kilometres. The great leader highly estimated the heroic feats performed by soldiers of the Korean People's Army and others in building the barrage in a matter of five years and left a handwriting there, which reads: "The West Sea Barrage is a great creation brought about by the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle of our people. Glory to the builders of the barrage! Kim Il-song, May 22, 1986."

Monuments of his handwritings can be seen in Unha-ri, Yangdok County, South Pyongan Province, and Changsong County, North Pyongan Province.

The great leader called at Unha-ri in Yandok County, a remote mountainous village, in September, 1947, and left the following handwriting to an old man of the village: "Write down a note and hand it down to your children and grandchildren to pick up golden fruits from all the mountains. Kim Il-song." Thus, a new history of golden mountains began there.

The villagers of Unha-ri who enjoy a happy life in the civilized socialist countryside today engraved his handwriting on a natural rock in order to convey his benevolence to the posterity.

There stands a monument of his handwriting "Lake Unpa" on the bank of the irrigation reservoir in Unpa County, North Hwanghae Province.

Upon receiving a report that a large-scale reservoir was built in this area which had once been called a barren land for want of water for a long time, the great leader named the reservoir, a precious wealth of eternal value for the happiness of the people, "Lake Unpa".

Many handwritings of the great leader have been engraved on architectures and in scenic spots including Mt. Kumgang.

There is a bridge with a board on which is engraved "Okryu Bridge" with a master stroke across the Taedong River in Pyongyang.

30 odd years ago, when he was making a round of the bridge completed, the great leader, personally wrote "Okryu Bridge" with a brush, saying that the water of the Taedong River is okryu (flowing beads) in the true sense of the word.

In the later period, he named bridges and barrages built on the Taedong River "Nungna Bridge," "Mirim Bridge," "Sunchon Barrage" and "Songchon Barrage".

His handwritings are engraved on the hanging boards on monumental edifices.

A handwriting is engraved on a natural rock on a slope southeast of Hyangro Peak of Mt. Kumgang, reading: "Mt. Kumgang is a famous mountain of Korea, a world's renowned mountain. Kim Il-song, September 27, 1947."

The letters, each letter 13 metres high and 9 metres wide, and the width of stroke 1.6 metres, will convey down through generations the benevolence of the great leader who built the world-famous Mt. Kumgang into recreation centre and tourist place for the working people.

Musan Mining Complex Produces Iron Headings

SK2503113991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1049 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA)—The Musan mining complex situated in the northern part of Korea is gathering strength.

The construction and excavation capacities of the mine have doubled and the transport capacity trebled over the last 10 years.

Unprecedented upsurge in production is reported from the complex which has turned into the nation's leading iron headings production base.

The miners there carried out the January and February assignments of the yearly plan set 90 percent higher than last year's respectively at more than 104 percent and are overfulfilling their daily quotas in March, too.

These achievements and changes resulted from the energetic guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. In May 1984, he visited it to acquaint himself with estimated deposits and deposits confirmed through the survey and the quality of iron ores and set forth a task of doubling the construction capacity at a time. And he indicated ways to give definite precedence to earth scraping and create straight excavation terraces and remodel the construction equipment more efficiently.

After his on-the-spot guidance, the miners improved mining equipment along modern lines and built a well-equipped maintenance shop to produce by itself more than 3,000 kinds of accessories, a big motor repair base with an annual capacity of repairing hundreds of trucks, an iron-ball production base and a production base of chisel heads of the rotary deep-boring machine.

Comrade Kim Chong-il called at the mine in August 1988 again and took a measure to decisively increase the production of iron headings in a short span of time, saying that the Musan mining complex is a life line of the nation's metal industry.

He organized a construction force to build a belt conveyer line to carry away scraped earth.

As a result, long-distance underground belt-conveyer lines of several systems were built at the mine with 10,000 metres of tunnels driven through in six months or more.

Modern mining machines including rotary deep-boring machines, excavators, large trucks equivalent to the capacity of the existing mining equipment of the mine were additionally supplied.

During his on-the-spot guidance to North Hamgyong Province in August last year, Comrade Kim Chong-il took a measure to accelerate the construction of dressing plant No. 3 and, at the same time, readjust and reinforce the equipment of the existing dressing plants in order to increase the dressing capacity of the Musan mine.

Some 120 machine plants across the country are now producing dressing machines and many of them have already contributed to the modernization of the dressing plants.

Besides, Comrade Kim Chong-il showed benevolent loving care in all matters down to the question of miners' going to and from the work sites and their housing problem, the supply service of non-staple food and organization of their life and again saw to it recently that the whole party, the whole country and the entire people assisted Musan.

Under such kind care, the mine has turned into a mighty iron headings production base which steadfastly ensures the life line of the metal industry.

Party Revolutionary Tradition Discussed

SK2503101691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0600 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Unattributed Talk: "Our Party's Revolutionary Traditions Are Noble Revolutionary Assets Achieved Under the Leader's Leadership"]

[Text] The question of the revolutionary tradition is one of the basic problems which arises in the inheritance, development, and consummation of the revolutionary cause of the working class. The source of the strength for inheriting, developing, and consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class—which is to continue generation after generation—lies in the revolutionary tradition. Only when the revolutionary struggle of the working class is carried out according to the revolutionary tradition, is it victoriously advanced, inherited, and developed while consistently ensuring the unitarity of the leader's ideology and leadership.

Thus, the revolutionary tradition—the primary questions that arise concerning its inheritance, development, and consummation of the revolutionary cause of the working class—can only be created by the leader. The revolutionary tradition being created by the leader of the working class is because the leader creates the guiding ideology of the revolution and brilliantly illuminates the future path of the revolution with this guiding ideology. To achieve the independent aspirations and demands of the popular masses, it is imperative to pass through the most serious course of social changes in the history of mankind. What leads this formidable course of social changes to a most correct path is precisely the leader's revolutionary ideology.

The leader of the working class creates the most scientific guiding ideology of the revolution, which accords with the demands of the times and the developing revolution, and brilliantly illuminates the road of struggle for the popular masses' independence because the leader has exceptionally outstanding and prominent talent and features. With the creation of the guiding ideology of the revolution, the working class and the popular masses have the mighty weapon of struggle with which they can finally achieve their independent aspirations and demands. The leader of the working class—who has created the guiding ideology of the revolution—not only establishes, based on this guiding ideology, correct lines and policies, in which detailed tasks and ways of the revolutionary struggle are prescribed, in every phase and every period of the development of the

revolution, but also fosters the working class and the popular masses to become the masters of the revolution by arming them with the lines and policies. Thus, the leader leads the working class and the popular masses to the road of the revolution.

Under the leadership of the leader, the working class and the popular masses establish the leader's ideological system amid the practice of the revolutionary struggle for independence and brilliantly pioneer the future path of the revolution, thoroughly relying on the leader's revolutionary ideology and line. The leader's ideological system which has been estasblished in this way becomes the noble revolutionary assets of performing a durable function in, and giving eternal vim and vigor to, the entire course of the revolutionary cause of the working class which ranges from the dawn of the revolution to its consummation.

The revolutionary tradition being created by the leader of the working class is also because the leader creates immortal struggle achievements and experiences in his course of building the main force of the revolution and victoriously advancing the revolution. The revolution is the course of the movement of its main force. The important key to victory in the revolution rests with the strength of the united popular masses. The work of building the main force of the revolution is to be carried out by the leader of the working class.

The leader rallies the popular masses ideologically, mentally, and organizationally with his absolute position and dignity. Under the leader's leadership, core elements of the revolution are fostered, and the work of founding the revolutionary party of the working class, strengthening and developing it, using the core elements as the mainstay, is vigorously pushed ahead. Along with this, the work of rallying the broad masses around the party, and fostering them to become revolutionaries through a revolutionary organizational life, is exuberantly unfolded. In this course, the powerful main force of the revolution—in which the leader, the party, and the masses are firmly united and rallied as one—begins to emerge, and then constantly strengthens and develops.

As the main force of the revolution is built, strengthened, and developed, the party, the government, mass organizations, and the revolutionary armed forces are built; their experiences are created; and the revolutionary achievements are registered. These struggle experiences and achievements become not only firm assets in the revolutionary struggle, but also a model which makes it possible to easily solve any difficult problem.

The revolutionary tradition being created by the leader is also due to the leader providing the most correct revolutionary work method and people-oriented work style. The victory of the revolution is achieved through the close combination of leadership and the masses. Here the leader plays a decisive role. In other words, the leader directly organizes and guides the popular masses' struggle for the implementation of the struggle line and the strategic and tactical policies set forth in conformity with the degree of preparedness of the masses and their demands along with the demands of the prevailing situation. Through this leadership role of the leader, the revolutionary work method and the people-oriented work style are created. They become the source of the boundless strength which makes it possible to victoriously lead the revolutionary cause of the working class.

Thus, the revolutionary tradition is not only the precious legacy of the revolution, but is also a noble revolutionary asset which can only be created by the leader. The revolutionary tradition of our party is the revolutionary tradition of chuche which the leader Comrade Kim Il-song created, and which dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has developed and enriched.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The brilliant revolutionary tradition of our party is the precious revolutionary asset which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song achieved in the period of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Our party's revolutionary tradition is the glorious revolutionary tradition which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created when he organized and led the heroic anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in the past, taking upon himself the destiny of the fatherland and the nation. The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was the revolutionary struggle that the communists and people of our country carried out for the first time in history, holding the great leader in high esteem, and based on the principle of independence.

In the early days our people constantly waged a struggle against the Japanese imperialists for national independence, freedom, and liberation. However, all of their struggle underwent bitter failure because they were not blessed with the excellent leadership of the leader. Putting an end to this tragic history, the great leader led our revolution straight on the single road of victory, holding aloft the revolutionary banner the chuche idea. The great leader's faith he had when he stood at the front of the Korean revolution was mingled with the masses of working people and relying on their strength, independently waged the struggle for national liberation and class liberation.

Proceeding from this, the great leader pioneered a new revolutionary road, totally different from the anti-Japanese national liberation movement and the early communsit movement of the past in our country—which had to undergo bitter throes and all sorts of vicissitudes. That is to say, he pioneered a genuine struggle road which made it possible to unfold the revolutionary struggle based on the principle of independence.

As a result, our revolutionary struggle began to develop into the struggle which unfolded independently and creatively with the chuche idea as its guiding ideal. And beginning in the early 1930's, our revolutionary struggle entered a new high stage in which the struggle was unfolded according to the revolutionary line of chuche

and with an armed struggle as its main axis. The glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle became the foundation for forming the revolutionary tradition. And then, the revolutionary tradition of chuche—the basic content of which includes the ideological system of chuche, the revolutionary achievements, the struggle experiences, the revolutionary work method, and the people-oriented work style—was created precisely on this firm foundation.

Our party's revolutionary tradition, created in the pioneering period of the revolutionary cause of chuche, was not only brilliantly embodied in all fields of the revolution and construction after national liberation, but was also further developed and enriched into new revolutionary assets in this period. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song brilliantly embodied the revolutionary tradition created amid the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in the practical struggle for building a new society and for socialism and communism and, thus, registered immortal revolutionary achievements.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is brilliantly inheriting and developing the revolutionary tradition of chuche created by the great leader by thoroughly embodying it in party work, party activity, the revolution, and construction. Thanks to the energetic ideological and theoretical activities of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the structural system of the great leader's revolutionary ideology, the chuche idea, and its content—which form the basis of the chuche idea system—have been formulated, and the ideology, theory, and method of chuche have been further developed and enriched.

Thanks to the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the leadership system of the party has been also thoroughly established; new experiences have been created in the work of reforming human beings and in the economic, cultural, and national defense construction fields; and the work method of the great leader's style, that is to say, the people-oriented work style, has been extensively established.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il not only has developed and enriched the content of the revolutionary tradition created by the great leader with new ideological and theoretical assets, but has also led it to become the assets for the ages which will add luster to the history of the respected and beloved leader's glorious and brilliant revolutionary struggle, generation after generation.

The revolutionary tradition created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and developed and enriched by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the basic cornerstone and the foundation for the ages which firmly ensure the final victory of our revolutionary cause.

All party members and the working people should take great pride and honor in inheriting the revolutionary tradition, the precious assets of our revolution, and should vigorously push ahead with the revolutionary cause pioneered in the forests of Paektu.

NODONG SINMUN on Revolutionary Principle

SK2503105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0957 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today devotes nearly one whole page to a by-lined article entitled "It Is Our People's Great Honour To Vigorously Advance Along the Road of Revolution Under the Guidance of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song."

To adhere to revolutionary principle in the course of accomplishment of the cause of the working class, the cause of socialism, is a matter of key importance deciding on its fate and future, says the article.

It quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"If the socialist cause is to be carried to fulfilment, one must at all times adhere to the revolutionary principle of supporting and realizing the independence of the masses."

The article reads in part:

Historical experience of the revolutionary struggle shows that adhering to revolutionary principle is the way of giving steadfast continuity to the cause of the party and the revolution, without the character of the revolution, the character of the party, undergoing any change halfway.

Fidelity to revolutionary principle—this is a yardstick showing the boundless loyalty of communists to the revolutionary cause.

The course of the revolutionary activities of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a glorious course of the struggle of a great revolutionary, a great communist who has set a most brilliant example of unwavering fidelity to revolutionary principle.

The great leader has always placed the interests of the working class, the fundamental interests of the revolution above anything else in the whole period of the revolution and construction and subordinated everything to it.

In our country all the questions in the revolution and construction have been successfully solved in conformity with the stand of the working class and socialist principles in different stages of the revolution under the wise guidance of the party and the leadr, and this stand and principles are being thoroughly applied still today. Socialism is a society which develops on the basis of principles fundamentally different from those of capitalism and, accordingly, no questions can be solved apart from the socialist principles and methods. This is the steadfast stand maintained consistently by the party and

the leader. With the application of this principled stand the principle of ensuring party's leadership is carried through in all domains of the revolution and construction and all the questions arising in socialist construction are solved by giving play to the inexhaustible creative abilities of the popular masses, the driving force of the revolution.

Revolutionary guidance of the great leader who solves all questions from the viewpoint of fundamental interests of the revolution, the interests of the working class, not wedded to immediate interests, is the source of strength that constantly brings the advantages of our socialism into full play.

Comrade Kim Il-song has waged an unremitting, uncompromising struggle against the counterrevolutionary moves of the imperialists and other reactionaries in the whole period of the revolution and construction.

The imperialists' counterrevolutionary moves to obstruct, disorganize and destroy the revolutionary cause of the working class are stubborn and vicious.

Loudly advertising "crisis of socialism," the U.S. imperialists are now openly resorting to intrigues to disorganize socialism. Our party lucidly saw through the reactionary essence of the imperialists' "peaceful transition" strategy and advanced a strategy and policies to smash it, uninterruptedly leading the cause of socialism to victory.

The greatness of our party and revolution lies in invariably and decidedly maintaining the revolutionary stand of anti-imperialist independence still today when confrontation between socialism and capitalism is growing acute.

The course of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Il-song is also a course of his struggle to maintain consistency in lines and policies.

There have been no deviations or turns and twists in our revolution as regards its lines because the revolutionary lines set forth by the party and the leader have been thoroughly consistent and leadership to implement them has been given continuity.

The great leader's matchless fidelity to revolutionary principle is manifested precisely in the fact that he has consistently led the revolution and construction without the slightest deviations from the road of revolution chosen by him, from the revolutionary lines set forth by him. History knows no other great leader like him who has defended the idea of the working class and the masses of the people and led the revolution and construction to constant upswing, not conceding revolutionary principle, during his more than 60 years of revolutionary activities.

Noting that Comrade Kim Il-song is a great leader who is possessed of distinguished leadership ability of adhering to and implementing revolutionary principle under whatever circumstances, the article goes on:

The outstanding leadership traits of the great leader can be seen in successfully upholding the banner of revolution, the banner of socialism with the indomitable will and firm confidence that truth and principle will certainly emerge victorious and in brilliantly applying the revolutionary principle of the working class in keeping with the ever-changing and developing situation and the trend of the times with creative wisdom.

Saying our people are a good people with strong revolutionary character, a healthy people who find it worth their while to devote themselves to the revolution and struggle, he always goes among the people, believes in their strength, openheartedly discusses with them the way of making a breakthrough and arouses them to new feats. This outstanding leadership of his has wrought world-startling miracles. Singlehearted unity is, indeed, an almighty weapon that makes it possible to overcome whatever difficulties and create whatever things one wishes to and constantly bring the advantages of socialism into play.

As Comrade Kim Il-song has led the revolution and construction with his unwavering fidelity to revolutionary principle, our party and state, our society and people have a boundlessly bright prospect, the article notes, and stresses:

His firm adherence to revolutionary principle has enabled our party and people to possess the invincible might for firmly defending the national dignity and sovereignty generation after generation, build a new, best life to meet the essential requirements of socialism and have creditable assets to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche to accomplishment.

Indeed, the leadership of the great party and leader run through with infinite fidelity to the revolutionary cause is the source that has made chuche Korea highly display its honour and dignity and brought about unprecedented, epochal changes and miracles in this land.

KCNA Review of 23 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK2303050491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the Pakistan day.

NODONG SINMUN reports that President Kim Il-song received a solidarity message from Zambian President Kenneth David Kaunda supporting the new proposal for national reunification advanced in his New Year address.

Printed in the paper is a solidarity message to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from Yacob

Zayadine, general secretary of the C.C. Jordanian Communist Party, denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises.

The magazine "Study of Kimilsongism" No. 55 was published by the Japanese Society for the Study of Kimilsongism, says the paper.

Papers print articles on the revolutionary activities of Kim Hyong-chik, an indomitable revolutionary fighter, on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the formation of the Korean National Association (on March 23, 1917) by him.

NODONG SINMUN gives an account of the 16th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for making the whole society overflow with the revolutionary traits of life of the working class and MINJU CHOSON for effecting a new upsurge in railway transport.

Econews of the press includes reports that a new upswing has been effected in coal production, sowing of seed rice on cold beds is going on briskly and demobilized soldiers who have been guarding the posts of the country are proceeding to coal mines.

According to the press, Premier Yon Hyong-muk sent messages of greetings to Mulumba Lukoji on his appointment as prime minister of Zaire, and to D.B. Wijetunge on his reappointment as prime minister of Sri Lanka, the acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic met the DPRK ambassador to his country and an agreement on cooperation in construction was signed here between the Governments of Korea and Nigeria.

Given in the press is an account of a KCNA interview with a spokesman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK on the fact that the South Korean Red Cross failed to take over letters of our side addressed to the co-chairmen of the South Korean General Federation of National Artists and the chairmen of the National Teachers Union, the South Korean Federation of Women's Organizations and the Korean National Council of Women of South Korea, refusing to convey them to the addressees.

The press gives accounts of meetings held at factories and co-op farms throughout the northern half of Korea and conveys voices abroad denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that South Korean pastor Hong Kun-su rejected the splittist stand of the authorities, the U.S. Imperialists and South Korean rulers staged nuclear war maneuvers against the northern half of the country, and No Tae-u appeared in the frontline area to incite anti-North war fever at puppet army units.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that South Korean opposition parties and inhabitants criticized the interference of "government" power in the "local assembly elections" and that the authorities faked up a groundless "case of the group for the promotion of national reunification" to stifle the student movement.

The paper comes out with a commentary condemning the illegal interference of the "Democratic Liberal Party" in the "elections".

In a commentary, MINJU CHOSON accuses the No Tae-u ruling group of trying to cover up the truth of the Suso scandal.

A national conference of the Liaison Society of the Japanese Women for Solidarity With the Korean Women was held in Tokyo, says NODONG SINMUN.

World news columns of the press include reports that the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted a decision on the results of referendum, the president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia defended the proposal of the general staff of the supreme command of the armed forces to heighten alert of the armed forces, the 15th anniversary of the foundation of the Revolutionary Vanguard was celebrated in Madagascar and Namibia instituted a new national anthem.

Papers dedicate articles to the Pakistan day.

MINJU CHOSON observes the world meteorological day.

KCNA Review of 25 Mar NODONG SINMUN

SK2503054891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN frontpages the news that Chinese mass media reported the on-the-spot guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song in the Samsok district cooperative farm, Pyongyang.

The paper allots nearly one whole page to an article titled "It Is Our People's Great Honour To Vigorously Advance Along the Road of Revolution Under the Leadership of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song".

It conveys words of South Korean people who ardently revere dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, saying that acclaiming him as the leader is an auspicious event that our nation should be proud of down through generations.

The daily editorially calls for dynamically pushing ahead with the mechanization, revolutionization and intellectualization of the rural community, following the example of the drivers' family of Yongyon.

The Econews of the paper includes reports about sowing of seed rice on cold bed in rural areas and about innovations in production at the Musan mining complex.

It is reported in the press that Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and other dissidents of South Korea denounced the intervention of "government" power in the "local assembly elections", different organizations of South Korea rejected the move of the authorities to divide the forthcoming "elections" and more than 1,200 peasants under the "National Federation of Peasants Associations" held a "national meeting of peasants" for winning the people's medical insurance law and having products purchased.

An article of the paper calls upon the pro-reunification democratic forces of South Korea to unite and curb and frustrate the suppression and fraud committed by the No Tae-u ruling quarters under pretext of "fair elections".

Under the headline "To Have President Kim Il-song as the Sun of the Nation Is the Unanimous Will of the Fellow Countrymen in the South", the daily gives accounts of an interview granted to the press by young man Won Yong-kwan who was representative of the Ansan united business company before defecting to the northern half of the republic in December last year.

The chairman of the organizing committee of the 41st World Table Tennis Championships made public a talk in congratulation of the participation of the North and the South of Korea as a unified team in the games, says the press.

Given in the paper are accounts of meetings held at industrial establishments and cooperative farms in the northern half of the republic and voices of foreign political and public figures denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military manoeuvres.

The international news columns include the reports that the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted a resolution recommending the Moscow City Soviet to ban the mass demonstration of "democratic Russia" bloc and other organizations and groupings slated in Moscow on March 28 and that the 4th round of Germany-Poland talks on concluding a treaty of good neighbourhood and cooperation was held.

The paper carries an article captioned "arrogance of U.S. imperialism heading for war adventures" and materials showing the ever-worsening food problem in the world.

South Korea

UN Leader 'Would Support' South's Membership

SK2503015891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—U.N. Secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar favors South and North Korea entering the United Nations at the same time, but would support an application for South Korean membership alone if North Korea rejects simultaneous admission, a senior South Korean Government official said Monday.

"It is natural that South Korea, which has contributed to international peace and the welfare of mankind, should exert its rights and should take on its duties as a full member of the world body," he quoted Perez de Cuellar as telling No Chang-hi in a meeting March 18, when the new head of South Korea's observer mission to the United Nations presented his letter of credentials.

The secretary-general also told No he would actively help South and North Korea to join the United Nations as early as possible by every means available, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

He said it was unusual for Perez de Cuellar to break with tradition and take a position siding with either side on U.N. membership for the two Korea's.

There is a possibility of Perez de Cuellar visiting both Seoul and Pyongyang to discuss membership before the 46th U.N. General Assembly meets in September, according to sources familiar with U.N. affairs.

South General Hwang Named To Head UNCMAC

SK2503084291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0825 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—For the first time ever, a South Korean was named Monday to head the U.N. side of the Military Armistice Commission, which polices the truce that ended the Korean war.

Maj. Gen. Hwang Won-tak, deputy chief of the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, was named senior member of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) by the United Nations Command (UNC). All senior members have been U.S. generals or flag officers since the Korean armistice of 1953.

The U.S.-led U.N. Command officially informed North Korea of the appointment of Hwang, one of five allied members of the 10-member commission, as 57th senior member of the UNCMAC in the morning, officials said.

There was no reaction from the North, which has said it would refuse to recognize a South Korean general.

Hwang's appointment, effective immediately, was coordinated with the South Korean defense minister and other key government officials.

UNC Commander-in-Chief Gen. Robert RisCassi, the top U.S. commander in Korea, advised Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku of the selection of Hwang to replace U.S. Maj. Gen. James Record. The U.N. Command notified UNC liaison groups and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and submitted a report on the appointment to the U.N. Security Council.

At the Korea-United States Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) in November, the two sides agreed in principle to have a Korean as senior member by 1992.

Seoul Trying To Win PRC Support on UN Issue

SK2303004191 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The government is becoming aggressive in its approach to China to win support for Seoul's admission to the United Nations.

Seoul needs Beijing's cooperation for entry into the United Nations this year. South Korea's admission to the world body and diplomatic normalization with mainland China are two major diplomatic goals. In realizing these two goals, however, the government will not assume a low posture toward China, government officials say.

Yi Chung-pin, assistant foreign minister for political affairs, said, "We will not resort just to a 'please, help me' strategy." He asserts that now is the time for China to free itself from the ill legacies of the Cold War in its relations with South and North Korea.

"I believe that China in principle supports the separate U.N. entry of South and North Korea," said the assistant minister, noting that Chinese leaders have often declared that they want peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

China, one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, has withheld its position regarding Seoul's admission to the world organization because of its "peculiar" relationship with North Korea which still insists on a single-state membership alternately held by the South and the North.

"If China supports our country's bid for the full U.N. membership, our admission is a fait accompli," said Yi. The Soviet Union already has expressed support for South Korea's entry as the two countries established full diplomatic relations last September.

Yi said in a resolute voice, "China has nothing to lose if South Korea enters the United Nations alone."

"If our government's application for the full U.N. membership is aborted because of China's exercise of its veto power, it will inflict serious damage on the credibility of China's foreign policy. It will also not befit the status of China as a big power," said Yi.

He said the South Korean position has been delivered to China through third countries. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen may have heard about the South Korean position when he visited several European countries early this year, said Yi.

He added that is the reason why he believes China may at least abstain from voting to enable South Korea's entry when the application is taken up during a Security Council meeting this year.

Officials say that if the U.N. entry by South Korea is realized it will also facilitate the establishment of full diplomatic ties between South Korea and China. Seoul opened its trade representative office in Beijing on Jan. 30 this year and Chinese officials have been working in Seoul from late last month to establish their trade office in the Korean capital.

But Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha says it will take some time for South Korea and China to normalize full ties, considering the overall situation surrounding the Korean peninsula.

Assistant Minister Yi said, "As far as Korea-China relations are concerned, a breakthrough should be sought in multilateral contacts rather than bilateral diplomacy."

Foreign Ministry officials predict that if South Korea enters the U.N. North Korea will have no choice but to follow suit, though she would instantly and violently react to the admission.

No Tae-u Interview on Inter-Korean, Soviet Ties

SK2303031391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0242 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u has said that easing tension on the Korean peninsula and solving the Korean problem are central to bringing peace and stability to the Asia-Pacific region.

"Resolution of the Korean problem is of utmost priority if stability is to prevail in northeast Asia and if a new order of international cooperation is to be established in the region," he said.

No, in a recent interview with the official Soviet news agency TASS, also expressed his hope that the Soviet Union would contribute to reconciliation between South and North Korea.

He told TASS the absence of reconciliation and cooperation would make early removal of the confrontational cold war structure in northeast Asia difficult.

Promotion of Seoul-Moscow ties would be conducive to peace and reduction of tensions, No said in the interview March 14 with TASS Director General Lev Spiridonov, here March 8-15 at the invitation of YONHAP news agency. The full text of the interview was carried Friday by IZVESTIA, the Soviet Government newspaper, according to TASS.

Improvement of Seoul-Moscow ties was essential in the long-run for peaceful unification of Korea, the president said.

"We hope that the Soviet Union will do its part to improve and encourage channels of dialogue, mutual exchanges and cooperation between South and North Korea: and to prod North Korea to discard its ill-conceived and outmoded isolationist policies and join the world outside," he said.

Economic cooperation and trade relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union were certain to

expand substantially because their economic structures had many complementary features, the Korean leader said.

President No said the Soviet Union could sell resources to Korea, and Korea could provide consumer goods, build factories and develop natural resources.

Highly advanced Soviet technology could be combined with Korea's manufacturing skills to produce advanced technology products, he said.

Korea planned to build factories in the Soviet Union for medical supplies, consumer goods and electronic products in 1992 and 1993, he told Spiridonov, adding that the two nations had agreed on economic cooperation projects worth 3 billion U.S. dollars and there were predictions that bilateral trade would exceed 10 billion dollars within four or five years.

Korea could help the Soviet Union convert plants from military to civilian use by providing production skills and manufacturing facilities, he said.

Korea's extensive experience and construction skill could contribute to the expansion of infrastructure and development of Soviet society, No told the TASS chief, requesting that the Soviet Union give Korean companies a more favorable environment so they can operate more actively.

Touching on regional problems, No said it was desirable for Seoul and Moscow to cooperate closely for regional peace and stability by actively promoting bilateral economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, trade relations and personnel interchanges.

South Korea did not want North Korea to remain isolated, he said.

"We want North Korea to join the outside world and join us in our common efforts toward progress and prosperity," he said.

"What we desire in this respect is for North Korea to adopt a more constructive and reasonable posture and join us in our pursuit of common prosperity until a peaceful unification is achieved. The Soviet contribution toward the realization of such a process will certainly expedite the peace and stability in Asia-Pacific."

Entry into the United Nations of South and North Korea would serve to not only improve their relationship but also contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region, he said.

No told Spiridonov that the North Korean argument that allowing both Koreas to have U.N. seats would perpetuate the division was "unrealistic," and Seoul would apply for U.N. membership this year.

The two sides of Korea should develop a relationship that was conducive to their security and prosperity until political unity was achieved, No said.

"It is conceivable that South and North Korea can agree to a formation of a provisional South-North coalition for purposes of expanding mutual exchanges and cooperation and expediting the process of unification," he told TASS.

"Should the basis for a political unity emerge through such a process, it would then be possible to attain a unification in a peaceful, independent and democratic manner," he said.

USSR Asked for Information on Airline Downing

SK2503085591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0832 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government Monday renewed its call for the Soviet Union to hand over the results of a new investigation into the 1983 downing of a Korean commercial jet in Soviet airspace.

The renewed demand follows a report on Japanese television Saturday in which the Soviet pilot who shot down flight 007 admitted he knew it was a civilian jet, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The official Soviet explanation at the time was that the pilot did not know it was a commercial plane, and that the jetliner failed to respond to a tracer fired by the Soviet fighter.

The request was made through the South Korean ambassador to Moscow, Kong No-myong, the official said and further demands will be made at the Seoul-Moscow vice foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for Seoul early next month.

Kong met with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev March 21 and requested that he be advised of any new discoveries pertaining to the incident, but was told Moscow was still waiting for a report, the official said.

Col. Gennadiy Osipovich, pilot of the SU-15 interceptor that shot down the Korean Air Lines B-747 on Sept. 1, 1983, was quoted by Japan's Asahi-TV as saying he knew the plane was a commercial airliner and conceding that the downing was intentional.

The downing killed all 269 passengers and crew and the incident remains a bitter memory despite warming relations between the two countries. Korea asked for a full Soviet account and any new information when Rogachev visited Seoul last January.

The Foreign Ministry official said the Asahi report contained entirely new information.

Rogachev responded favorably to Seoul's request to allow a memorial to be built by relatives of the victims at Sakhalin, the site of the accident, saying his government would review the request positively, the official added.

Envoy Sokolov Views Korean Peninsula Issues

SK2503093491 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 25 Mar 91

[By reporter Cha Man-sun]

[Text] Sokolov, the Soviet ambassador to our country, has said that the Soviet Union seriously worries about extreme military and political tension on the Korean peninsula and wants a balanced arms reduction to be considered urgently. It is noteworthy that he extensively referred to security on the Korean peninsula for the first time since arriving in the ROK.

Soviet Ambassador Sokolov said this in a special article in the March edition of the magazine NORTHERN ECONOMY, published by the International Private Economic Council of Korea. He stressed that the Soviet Union will make every diplomatic effort for the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. He also said that the Soviet Union will actively participate in the discussion among interested parties on the international coordination of the Korean peninsula problem.

In his special article entitled "ROK-Soviet Relations Which Opened a New Chapter in History," Ambassador Sokolov said that the Soviet Union is of a basic position that the problem of the reunification of the Korean peninsula must be solved on a peaceful, democratic basis by the Korean people themselves and that the Soviet Union will extend full support to constructive dialogue between the authorities of North and South Korea.

He also stressed, in particular, that the development of ROK-Soviet relations through economic cooperation will not only visibly and practically benefit the two countries but also greatly contribute to alleviating tension and stepping up stability and security in northeast Asia and the Asian-Pacific region in general.

Talks With USSR on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Power

SK2503073491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0712 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean and Soviet officials began a consultation on the peaceful use of nuclear power at the Science and Technology Ministry in Seoul Monday.

During the four-day meeting of the first Korea-USSR Coordination Committee on Nuclear Energy, the two sides will discuss the promotion of joint nuclear research projects, Korea's participation in the International Center for Chernobyl and other matters concerning the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Vice Science and Technology Minister So Chong-uk leads the Korean delegation, and Boris Nikipelov, first deputy minister of atomic power and industry, heads the Soviet team.

The Soviets also will visit a nuclear power plant in Kori and industrial facilities such as the Suwon factory of Samsung Electronics Co. and Hyundai Motor Co. in Ulsan.

Russian Academy Deputy Director Interviewed

SK2403112491 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 24 Mar 91 p 4

[Interview by reporter Yi Chang-hun with Yuriy Zaytsev, deputy director of the Russian Republic Academy of Sciences, in Seoul; date not given; first three paragraphs are newspaper's introduction]

[Text] Yuriy Zaytsev, deputy director the Russian Republic Academy of Sciences, who is known as the "right-hand man" of Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Republic Supreme Soviet and leader of the Soviet Union's radical reformists, came to the ROK on 22 March to discuss ROK-Soviet scientific and technological exchange and cooperation and other matters.

Deputy Chairman Zaytsev is also chairman of the Civil Rights Committee of the Russian Republic Supreme Soviet and rector of the State Engineering University. Commenting on the result of the recent Soviet referendum, he said: "Both Gorbachev and Yeltsin won. However, the situation has worsened." He went on to say: "A rapid transition to a market-economy system is the only way for the Soviet Union to overcome its difficulties."

Following is an interview with Deputy Chairman Zaytsev.

[Yi Chang-hun] The 17 March referendum in the Soviet Union has proven that the Soviet people support maintaining the federal system. Does this not mean that the political position of Yeltsin, who has called for bolstering the sovereignty of the Russian Republic, has been relatively weakened?

[Zaytsev] Both Gorbachev and Yeltsin won in this referendum. However, it is dangerous to try to see who won in this referendum. The Soviet people made a wise choice. They supported not only maintaining the federal system but also a direct presidential election in the Russian Republic. These two choices must not be confused.

[Yi] Is Yeltsin, who has declared a "war against Gorbachev," not seeking the next presidency? Would you tell us in detail what he will do in seeking the presidency if he intends to do that?

[Zaytsev] Yeltsin hopes that a market-economy system will be introduced rapidly. I presume that he will seek the presidency next time. However, what he wants now is for the Russian Republic to gain more sovereignty from the federal government. The Soviet people support Gorbachev. However, they do not want the conservatives to take power after Gorbachev. Therefore, I can say that Yeltsin is a strong presidential candidate.

[Yi] The Soviet Union is suffering from economic difficulties, on top of the ethnic strife. It is confronting a virtual "crisis." Do you have a solution?

[Zaytsev] The Soviet Union has maintained a socialist system for the past 70 years. It is very difficult to change this system overnight. I think that the only solution is for the federal government and the republics to handle problems in the same way, and to establish a market-economy system in close cooperation with such industrialized countries as the ROK. The ROK could not manufacture cars just a few decades ago; today, it is a major car exporter. I think that the ROK is a model that the Soviet Union must learn from.

[Yi] What is a better way to promote ROK-Soviet relations?

[Zaytsev] The ROK must import basic scientific technology from the Soviet Union and commercialize it. To this end, scientists and technicians of the two countries must be exchanged, and students, too, must be exchanged to promote mutual understanding. The two countries have already become friends, and must share interests, too.

[Yi] I know that there are many denationalized ethnic Korean people on Sakhalin, part of the Russian Republic. How will they be handled?

[Zaytsev] Soviet citizenship was granted last year to approximately 400 Korean people who applied for it.

The Russian Republic in principle does not force Koreans to have a specific nationality. We are willing to allow them to have ROK citizenship. However, we must spend some time with the ROK Government to discuss this matter. We understand well the historical fact that the existence of Koreans on Sakhalin is a byproduct of World War II.

List of Exportable Items to USSR Announced

SK2303072591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0608 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—The government announced Saturday what items and which companies are allowed to export to the Soviet Union in connection with Korea's providing of tied loans to the Soviet Union, saying it was necessary to prevent excessive competition.

"With the decision, the Trade and Industry Ministry will have the last negotiations with the Soviet Government next month over the efficient use of economic cooperation money between the two countries," a Ministry official said.

The list of companies and exports is as follows:

1) chemical and oil products—Samsung Co., Sunkyong Ltd., Hyosung Corp., Kolon International Corp.
2) shoes—Hyundai Corp., Ssangyong Corp., Kukje Corp., H.S. Corp.
3) iron and steel—Samsung Co., Hyundai Corp.
4) medicine—Lucky-Goldstar International Corp.
5) vcr—Samsung Electronics Co.
6) tire cord—Hyosung Corp.

Joint Table Tennis Team Arrives in Japan

SK2503094191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 (YONHAP)—Members of the first united Korean table tennis team, 11 each from North and South Korea, arrived in Japan on Monday afternoon for a month of joint training before the 41st world table tennis championships April 24-May 6 in Chiba.

It is the first time South and North Korea have formed a single team for an international sporting event since the division of the Korean peninsula in 1945.

The players arrived at Narita Airport from Seoul and Beijing around 1:30 in the afternoon and joined each other in an airport waiting room, where they were welcomed by Korean residents in Japan, officials from the championships organizing committee and members of the International Table Tennis Federation. Officials and players then left for their training camp without any ceremony.

As they arrived, some 300 Koreans were waiting for them in the lobby waving signs that said, "We sincerely welcome our team" and "Welcome Korean team."

"We feel obliged to cultivate the long-cherished desire of the Korean brethren as it already came true," said team leader Kim Hyong-chin of North Korea.

"We should make efforts together to take the lead in realizing national reconciliation and unity, with the formation of the single table tennis team as a turning point," he said.

The team is scheduled to undergo joint training in preparation for the championships in Nagano, Nakaoka and Chiba, beginning in Nagano on Tuesday.

Imports of DPRK Frozen Fish Arrive in Pusan

SK2503055891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—The Fisheries Administration said Monday 3,150 tons of frozen pollack from North Korea are about to clear Pusan customs.

The government approved the import of 2,150 tons last September and 1,000 tons last month, and both orders left North Korea's Kimchaek Port March 12 and reached Pusan March 14.

It is the second-ever shipment of the fish from North Korea, following 362 tons that arrived at the eastern port of Tonghae in February.

Since inter-Korean trade began in 1988, there have been no other fisheries imports from the North except 102 tons of frozen thornback that arrived at Inchon last October.

U.S. Ambassador Gregg Denies 'Hegemonism'

SK2303090891 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] On 22 March, U.S. Ambassador to the ROK Donald Gregg said that "Some people predict that the United States, prompted by victory in the Gulf war, will implement a 'Rambo-style' diplomacy by exercising powerful influence in trade, security, and other fields. But this is wrong."

In a speech delivered at an international academic seminar held at the Choson Hotel under the auspices of the Social Science Research Institute of Seoul National University (Director Choe Myong), Ambassador Gregg said that in the recent ROK press, he had read articles with "oversensitive suppositions" on the U.S. pressure on trade and security diplomacy.

Ambassador Gregg also noted that the United States will not pursue hegemonism by taking advantage of its influential power, which has increased since the Gulf war. He said that the order of the new world after the cold war will be settled so that all the world's nations can participate.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Report Criticized

SK2303130391 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 23 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "The Regrettable Act of the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea"]

[Text] Although the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea [Amcham] is an organization of American businessmen just as its title indicates, it is clearly stationed in Korea. Therefore, although this organization carries out its activities in the interest of Americans, it should respect the general practice and order of Korea. It should do so from the standpoint of both practical laws and from the aspect of friendship between Korea and the United States. However, a few recent actions by this organization show that it only adheres to its own interest, even harming friendly relations between our two countries, thus arousing our displeasure. Representatives of this organization, now visiting Washington, submitted a report sternly criticizing Korea's import policy to the U.S. trade representative. They are also going to submit this report to the U.S. Congress, the administration and other relevant organizations. In short, their report is like tattling to their home country. Needless to say, they are attempting to put pressure on the Korean Government by taking advantage of the strength of the United States.

Sarcastically describing the efforts of the Korean Government officials to prevent an outflow of foreign currency as "patriotic," this report complains that Korea imposes a high duty on unnecessary commodities while lowering the level of duty for strategic goods. Is trying to save foreign exchange by exercising self-restraint in importing luxury commodities wrong, for goodness sakes? Should we give a zest to and get merry over foreign commodities which we have imported even if it means going into the red, just like the United States, which registers red figures in trade amounting to nearly $100 billion a year? The United States may be wasteful for the sake of the justice of free trade. However, Korea is not in a position to give up frugality merely to follow such moral obligations. We earnestly ask them to cancel their absurd remarks urging us to initiate a drive to inform the public and the media of the positive sides of imports for Korea's economy and to set up an organization which immediately corrects discrimination in management of foreign commodities. They should also revoke their request for exemption of composite income tax for funds reinvested by foreign business companies and for simplification of procedures for air cargo, as well as the shameless request for permission to invest made by the (Cargill) Company. Such a request is similar to interference and attempting to ignore domestic regulations of our country.

The United States put forward the slogan of reciprocity in market opening. However, the United States is implementing the quota system for Korean-made textile products, and hindering the import of our agricultural products through harsh [kkadaroun] customs clearance procedures, which can only beregarded as intentional. We would like to ask whether the United States is entitled to forcibly demand the virtue of reciprocity. As the United States observed, the rate of Korea's market liberalization this year will reach as much as 97.2 percent, while the average customs rate will be 13 percent. Thus, we are making efforts going beyond our means and ability. The demand for something which goes beyond one's ability will come to no effective end, and will only arouse antipathy. Amcham's accelerating such a foolish consequence is indeed regrettable.

Scientific Cooperation Pact With Japan Reached

SK2403024091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Korean and Japanese science ministers have agreed to promote scientific and technological cooperation between both countries' government-invested research institutes, the Science- Technology Ministry said yesterday.

According to a ministry spokesman, Science-Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon, now visiting Japan to attend the second annual Asian nuclear energy forum, called on his Japanese counterpart Akiko Santo Friday to demand Japan transfer advanced technologies to Korea as had

been agreed between the two governments during President No Tae-u's visit to Japan last year.

In response to Kim's request, the Japanese science minister promised to support the scientific information and personnel exchanges and joint R & D [research & development] projects between the two countries, the spokesman said.

The joint effort will be made chiefly in such high-tech fields as aerospace, bio-engineering, new material and oceanography.

Seoul To Negotiate With Kurds for Five Workers

SK2503033091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0222 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry sent an urgent message to the South Korean Embassies in Iran, Turkey and Jordan on Monday, instructing them to negotiate with Iraqi Kurds for the release of five Koreans they have taken captive.

"The government will use every means available to seek the release of the detained workers as soon as possible through contacts with the rebels, once it receives detailed reports from its embassies in the region," a ministry spokesman said.

The five are employees of Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co. who sat out the Gulf war in Kirkuk, an oil city in southeastern Iraq, and were captured by Kurdish rebels together with other foreigners when rebels occupied the city, he said.

"According to the government's judgement, the Kurdish rebels are unlikely to put any condition on the release of our workers," he said.

The government has asked countries in the region for help in winning the early release of the Koreans, he added. The government has asked Bangladesh to confirm the safety of the workers through contacts in Syria with the "Kurdistan Patriotic Union," a rebel group headquartered in Damascus.

The Korean Embassy in Jordan has been told to try to contact the rebels by radio to get word on the Koreans, a ministry official said.

Yi Hae-sun, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Bureau, has met with officials from Hyundai to discuss the situation.

Local Election Campaign Status Reported

SK2403032091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Mar 91 pp 1, 7

[Text] With only two days to go before the local assembly elections, candidates are making last-minute appeals to woo voters. Pointing out widespread public apathy over the Tuesday balloting, candidates said yesterday that there are many undecided voters.

Official campaigning ends tomorrow after an 18-day run.

About 1,500 joint campaign rallies were held nationwide over the weekend. Most of them drew small crowds, reflecting little public interest in the local elections, the first in 30 years.

Issues raised by candidates were mostly local concerns. Some candidates connected with opposition parties attacked the government for the tap water contamination in Kyongsang provinces and the Suso bribery scandal.

Although political parties are not authorized to field candidates, the election appears mainly to be a showdown between the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD].

Ruling party officials said they are confident that their party will score sweeping victories in the local elections. More than half of those running in the elections are reportedly members of the giant ruling party and pro-DLP figures.

Attention is focused on a DLP-PPD showdown in Seoul. DLP officials said that the party candidates are determined to gain more than 50 percent of the council seats in the capital. They, however, were worried the ruling party would fail to attain their goal because of the tap water contamination in Kyongsang provinces.

The main opposition PPD, led by Kim Tae-chung, has reportedly set itself the goal of dominating more than five local assemblies in Seoul, including those in Kuro, Tobong, Yangchon, Songdong and Kwanak. The capital will have local councils in 22 wards.

The coming elections are to form local assemblies in districts in small- and medium-sized cities, "gun" (county) and "ku" (ward) in big cities. The large-unit local elections are scheduled for June.

Ruling party officials predicted that their candidates would dominate local councils in the party's stronghold of Kyongsang provinces, despite the water pollution case.

The ruling party candidates also may win 20 to 30 percent of council seats in Cholla provinces, the stronghold of the opposition PPD. In these provinces, the ruling party failed to produce a single lawmaker in the last parliamentary elections in April 1988.

PPD President Kim Tae-chung will make a trip to the Cholla provinces today to drum up support for candidates affiliated with his party.

Meanwhile, ruling party Secretary-General Kim Yun-hwan yesterday criticized the PPD leader for his plan to visit Cholla areas. His trip to those areas may deepen the bitter regional antagonism between Cholla and Kyongsang provinces, Kim charged.

He said his party's position to ban political parties from intervening in the small-area local elections remains unchanged. Parties cannot put up candidates for the small-district local elections, whereas they will be allowed to do so in large areas—nine provinces and six big cities, Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Inchon, Kwangju and Taejon.

Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung Friday accused the government and the ruling party of creating an "atmosphere of terror" to win the local elections.

The prosecution said that 43 people have so far been arrested on charges of violating elections laws, amid reports that an increasing number of people have been engaged in illicit campaign practices. Two hundred and thirty-five others have been booked on similar charges, since the voting day was formally announced March 8.

26 Mar Local Council Elections Previewed

SK2503014791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Koreans go to the polls Tuesday to elect local council members in the first of two rounds of balloting that will bring back local autonomy after an absence of 30 years.

In joint campaign rallies Sunday in more than 360 districts, the last before the campaign period officially ends at midnight Monday, the hottest issue was water contamination that affected nearly 10 million people in a southeastern province last week.

The polls open nationwide at 8 A.M., and counting will begin at 8 P.m. the same day. The first results will likely take shape Wednesday morning, officials at the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) said Monday.

CEMC head Yun Kwan urged voters Monday to actively participate in the elections, asking them to exercise their franchise "with sincerity."

"This election will choose the ones who will work for our neighbors, our hometown, and it is as important as the presidential or general elections," he said in a statement.

Yun's plea reflects concerns that Tuesday's election will suffer from low turnout. CEMC fears no more than 60 percent of eligible voters will go to the polls.

Even candidates have shown lagging interest, with 177 dropping out of the race and nine others being disqualified. Two candidates have died during the campaign period.

The number of candidates dwindled from 10,159 to 9,971, of whom 615 are uncontested. The competition rate is 2.35-to-1, much lower than the 5-to-1 projected by CEMC before registration.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) is likely to claim a landslide victory in the elections, with most of the candidates either party members or pro-DLP.

Parties are not allowed to field or support candidates in Tuesday's elections, but as candidates can declare their preference for a party the elections have virtually turned into a battle between the camps with majority of runners associated with one party or another.

The government party may well take 50 percent of the seats in Seoul, and between 20 percent and 30 percent even in South Cholla Province, the opposition stronghold, according to analysts.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy, went south to Cholla Province Sunday to personally muster support for pro-opposition candidates.

Burma

Sources: Government Planes Strike Karen Positions

BK2303013191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Mar 91 p A2

[By Somchit Rungchamratratsami]

[Text] Mae Sot—Burmese Government aircraft have struck Karen resistance strongholds about 20 kms from the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw, informed border sources said.

The sources said a number of Karen and dissident students were killed during the air attacks on Thursday at U Thu Hta Tha outpost, but a clear figure of the casualties had not yet been confirmed.

The air raids came one day after three Burmese reconnaissance planes were sent to survey the border resistance area, opposite Thailand's Mae Sariang District in Mae Hong Son.

The sources reported that five Yugoslav-made G-4 aircraft staged two rounds of bombing at 11:45 AM and 12:10 PM, but said that forces of the Karen National Union and the All Burma Students' Democratic Front tried to retalitate.

About a week earlier, five G-4 jets had dropped bombs on Saw Tha camp, which finally fell to the Burmese Army. The sources said the Burmese troops now occupied the stronghold, only 20 kms from the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw.

The sources added that the Thursday attacks on U Thu Hta was the second time the Burmese Army had employed aircraft in its operations against the ethnic resistance. The first took place last April when Rangoon sent tens of thousands of troops in an effort to overun Manerplaw, also the base of the interim government established last December by a group of Burmese legislators who won in general elections last May.

Insurgents Surrender to Military Units 12-23 Feb

BK2303063091 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] More members of various insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been surrendering to military units with assorted arms and ammunition after giving up the policy of armed struggle. The following surrenders took place between 12 and 23 February:

Southeast Military Command: Private Adee alias Nay Tun from the 4th KNU [Karen National Union] township defense unit surrendered along with one M-16 assault rifle at Nabu garrison, Lance Corporal Tar Lay from the 6th Company of the (?Southern Battalion) surrendered with an M-22 assault rifle at the frontline 6th Light Infantry Regiment, medic Thein Hla from the 16th Battalion surrendered along with one .32 pistol at Waiwinkara garrison, and platoon commander Hla Tun from the 5th Defense Battalion surrendered with one pistol, two AK-47 assault rifles, one rocket propelled grenade [RPG] launcher, nine RPG shells, and one set of intercom phones at Kamamaung garrison. Pvt. Mo Naing from the ABSDF [All Burma Students Democratic Front] 201st Battalion surrendered at Kanbauk garrison.

Eastern Military Command: Pvt. Rekhei from the Red Pa-o group of the SNPLO [expansion not known] insurgent organization surrendered with an M-22 assault rifle at the frontline 99th Infantry Regiment, platoon commander Ye Hlaing alias Soe Maing from the KNPP [Karenni National Progressive Party] surrendered at Htisekhar garrison, and Major Nyunt Tin alias Yu Tin from the White Pa-o PNO [Pa-o National Organization] surrendered at Ho-pong garrison.

Western Military Command: Pvts. Maung U Tin, Aung Kyaw Hla, Win Thein, and Tun Tin from the ABSDF surrendered at Maungdaw garrison.

Northeast Military Command: Pvts. Einda and Khin Pyo from the SUA [Shan United Army] 49th Battalion surrendered with one M-16 assault rifle and one M-46 hand grenade at the frontline 65th Infantry Regiment.

Northwest Military Command: Soe Min Aung alias Min Aung, and Kyauk Hke alias Ne Win from the BDDF [expansion not known] insurgent organization surrendered at Tamu border gate.

Northern Military Command: Pvt. Ye Maung from the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] surrendered with one BA-63 assault rifle at Lweje garrison, school teacher Ran Ja from the 6th Battalion surrendered at Hpakan People's Police Force Station, and Pvt. Nyi Nyi from the 1st Battalion surrendered with an M-21 assault rifle at the frontline 120th Light Infantry Regiment.

It has been learned that those who surrendered after giving up the armed struggle line were warmly welcomed by the authorities concerned at various military camps.

Radio Summarizes Past Year's Combat Activities

From Northeast Military Command

BK2403150691 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] The Defense Services, joining hands with the people, launched Operation Aung Hein Moe in areas in the jursdiction of the Northeast Military Command. As a result, two major battles and 379 minor engagements took place between 21 March 1990 and 20 March 1991.

On 26 May 1990, a small Defense Force column was conducting an area clearing campaign. When it arrived near (Kwin Pala) village in Kyaukme Township, Shan State, it clashed with about 30 Palaung insurgents

belonging to the PSLO [Palaung State Liberation Organization]. We suffered no losses in this campaign and found three enemy corpses. We also captured three small armaments.

On 17 October 1990, while a small Defense Force column was conducting an area clearing campaign, near (Kocho), Mong Nge Township, it clashed with about 15 NDF [National Democratic Front] insurgents. The enemy retreated in disarray. When mopping up in the area, our force found one enemy corpse and captured nine assorted small arms, including a 60-mm mortar.

On 1 December 1990, while a Defense Force column was conducting a clearing campaign near [name indistinct] village in Namhsan Township, it clashed with about 50 PSLO insurgents. We suffered no losses in this campaign. We captured two small arms and found five enemy corpses.

In the jurisdiction of the Northeastern Military Command, between 21 March 1990 and 20 March 1991, we killed 148 insurgents and captured 48, while 91 insurgents surrendered.

A total of 152 assorted weapons, 26 heavy weapon shells, 6,656 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition, (?126) assorted magazines, 43 [word indistinct] mines, 35 [word indistinct] mines, 52 slabs of explosives, five walkie-talkies, 45.17 kilograms of heroin, 592.65 kilograms of raw opium, and 2,903.09 viss [1 viss equals about 3.6 pounds] of jade was seized.

From Northern Military Command

BK2403145491 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] The Defense Services, joining hands with the people, launched Operation Thurein Tun and Operation Yan Naing Min in areas under the jursdiction of the Northern Military Command. As a result, 39 major battles and 295 minor engagements took place between 21 March 1990 and 20 March 1991.

On 2 November 1990, while a Defense Force column was conducting an area clearing campaign near (Naw Peng) village in Momauk Township, Kachin State, in the jurisdiction of the Northern Military Command, it clashed with a KIA [Kachin Independence Army] force of about 100 men. The enemy force while heading eastward attacked our troops.

A small force of mobile troops from our (Baw Song Yang) camp joined in the fight and surrounded the enemy force, which later fled in disarray. One soldier from our side laid down his life for the country in this campaign. We found six enemy corpses and three small arms.

On 26 November 1990, while a small Defense Force column was conducting a clearing campaign, it clashed with about 20 KIA insurgents near (Nam Sihong), Mohnyin Township. We suffered no losses in this campaign and found five enemy corpses. We also captured five small arms.

On 7 February 1991, while a Defense Force column was conducting a clearing campaign in (Palata) region, Mohnyin Township, it clashed with about 60 KIA insurgents. We suffered no losses in this campaign and found 10 enemy corpses. We also captured two small arms, 30 electric fuses, and about 40 ticals [100 ticals or one viss equals about 3.6 pounds] of opium.

In the jurisdiction of the Northern Military Command, between 21 March 1990 and 20 March 1991, we killed 157 insurgents and captured 125. A total of 151 insurgents surrendered.

A total of 132 assorted weapons, 152 heavy weapon shells, 14,291 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition, 53 assorted magazines, 191 assorted mines, 42 assorted hand grenades, 541 slabs of plastic explosives, one communications set, two walkie-talkies, one television set, 12 engines, five motorized watercraft, two horses, about 11.73 kilograms of raw opium, 16,946.90 viss of jade, 93,935 kyat in currency, 130 baskets [1 basket equals about 1 bushel] of paddy, and 155 baskets of rice was seized.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Economic Cooperation Talks With SRV Begin

BK2503092291 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Malaysian and Vietnamese senior officials today began formal talks in Kuala Lumpur on increasing bilateral economic cooperation and exploring potential business dealings. The first meeting of the Malaysia-Vietnam joint committee will discuss, among other things, Malaysian participation in Vietnam's petroleum, agricultural, and manufacturing industries. It will also look into the import of rice and coal from Vietnam and the export of Malaysian palm oil, rubber, and other commodities.

The Malaysian delegation of public and private sector representatives to the week-long meeting is headed by the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaffar. The seven-member Vietnamese delegation is led by State Planning Committee Vice Chairman Mai Ky. The delegation earlier paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The joint committee was launched last month during a visit to Kuala Lumpur by Vietnam's first deputy prime minister, Vo Van Kiet. It aims especially at facilitating the venture of Malaysian businessmen into Vietnam's economic development.

Mahathir Expresses Regret Over Health Rumor

BK2203142291 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has expressed regret over the negative statement made about him by certain people, such as saying that he was ill and needed to undergo surgery. He said he does not understand why there are people making such negative statements.

The prime minister was speaking to reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Hamid Airport in Kepala Batas, near Alor Setar, to attend the breaking of the fast ceremony with the people in Kampung Teluk Malik, near Jitra.

He said when he went to England for another purpose, there were certain people who claimed that he went for surgery. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said he has been going here and there and everybody sees him, but there are people who say that he is ill and has to undergo surgery. He does not know their motive. These people probably spread the rumors with the hope of bringing down prices on the stock market and to hamper developments in the country. The prime minister said if he is not around, it does not mean that the country will have to stop developing. There are many other people who can continue to develop the nation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Holds First News Conference

BK2203083891 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Mar 91 p 1

[By K.P. Waran]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues [19 March]—The Foreign Ministry is carrying out a review of its role and that of its missions abroad in a bid to upgrade its capabilities and professionalism.

The new Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the review was to prepare the Ministry to meet the future challenges and the "exciting times" that were in store for Wisma Putra [Foreign Affairs Ministry].

"The review is on organisational and personnel aspects to ensure there are quality people and up-to-date service. Wisma Putra intends to optimise its staff strength and facilities to play a more effective role in international relations," he said.

Speaking at his maiden Press Conference as Foreign Minister, Datuk Abdullah said there was a need for the Ministry to take a total approach to ensure that no aspect of foreign relations suffered because of shortcomings.

With the review, he said, the Ministry hoped to iron out all problems and place emphasis on economic diplomacy.

Datuk Abdullah returned to the Cabinet on March 15 after a four-year absence. Before being dropped from the Cabinet, he had held positions as Minister of Education, Minister of Defence and minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

He said Wisma Putra hoped to weave effective cooperation with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to bring about better trade relations and more investments.

"Economic, trade and investment relations are all linked to foreign countries and as such Wisma Putra will have a significant role to play.

"Furthermore, in view of Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed's vision to see Malaysia as a developed nation by 2020, this cannot be achieved if the nation practises isolation."

Responding to reporters' questions on Australian newspaper reports of a strain in relationshp between Australia and Malaysia he said:

"Our policy is to be good to all countries which show mutual respect and do not interfere in the other's domestic affairs.

"If a country wants to be good to us, there is no reason why we should not encourage it. On the other hand, if there are reasons to construe that a certain country is not respecting Malaysia and has been critical of us, this is bound to jeopardise our relationship.

"Malaysia does not intend to perpetuate problems with other countries and in time they will be ironed out," he said.

Cambodia

Heng Samrin Supports Hun Sen Call for Session

BK2503052691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0425 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 25—"In this dry-season while public opinion calls for more military self-restraint among the Khmer warring groups, the coalition forces, especially the polpotists, are mounting attacks against us on some points in the northwestern provinces, causing more casualties."

This was stated by President Heng Samrin at a 10,000-strong meeting to inaugurate a primary school and an infirmary in Kaoh Reah Commune, Lvea Em District, Kandal Province, on March 20.

President Heng Samrin said: "Though we control the whole territory and people, the party and the government have tried their best to find out a political solution to the Cambodian conflict so as to bring peace for the Cambodian people."

He blamed the Khmer opposition factions for deliberately ignoring the State of Cambodia's goodwill and trying to block the process of political solution to the conflict.

On the draft agreement dated November 26, 1990 of the big-five, Heng Samrin said, the government of the State of Cambodia agreed on most points but some issues concerning the nation's destiny and the people's life should be further discussed.

He called on the coalition factions to show their real goodwill in the process of a political solution to the Cambodian problem and come back to the negotiating table for talks on some points of the big-five draft agreement so as to put an early end to the conflict and bring a lasting peace for the Cambodians.

He also called on the overseas Cambodians and Khmer refugees living in the coalition-controlled camps in Thailand to support the State of Cambodia's position in the peace process, and on those in the enemy's ranks to return to the nation for national reconstruction. The Cambodian president appealed to the world community to support the five-point statement made by Prime Minister Hun Sen on March 7 on the reconvening of the Supreme National Council, a voluntary cease-fire, the moratorium on arms shipment to Cambodia, and the sending of a fact-finding mission of the United Nations to the refugee camps and area controlled by the opposition factions so as to pave the way for the early reaching of a global political solution to the Cambodian problem.

USSR To Repatriate 'Key Technicians'

BK2403123491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 24 (AFP)—The Soviet Union is preparing to repatriate key technicians working for the beleaguered government here, a Soviet official said.

The experts work in important utility sectors and will be difficult to replace, observers said.

The Soviet official said their withdrawal was prompted by tough economic problems back home. He said metereologists would start going back home later this week, and added that the cuts would affect all sectors including military advisers. Vietnam would fill the gap left by the meterologists but the Soviet Union was also likely to pull back experts working in the water and electricity utility fields and possibly pilots flying for Air Kampuchea. Moscow has been trying "without much success" to get other countries or organisations to fill the gaps, the official said.

A senior UN official said Moscow wanted the United Nations to step into the void but added that the world body could only provide humanitarian assistance to this government, which it does not recognise.

The Soviet technicians work in key development sectors and one UN source said about 30 would be called back home. The Soviet official said the number would be greater, but added that the Phnom Penh Government "will overcome it but I don't how we will" cope with problems in the Soviet Union.

The government, backed by Vietnam and the Soviet Union, is fighting a three-party resistance alliance supported by China and in part by the United States.

Moscow has already cut back aid by 80 per cent due to the horrific economic problems it faces.

Sihanouk Issues Statement on Vietnamese Forces

BK2503005091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 24 Mar 91

["Full" statement by Norodom Sihanouk, "president of Cambodia and head of the Cambodian national resistance forces," issued on 23 March in Beijing—read by announcer]

[Text] At present, in Cambodia there is a most dangerous escalation of war due to the fact that Vietnam has conducted its intervention even more apparently and blatantly. The Vietnamese forces have launched one offensive after another, using ground troops, armored cars, tanks, artillery pieces, and aircraft and helicopters armed with machine guns against the three armies of the Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly in Thmar Puok and Pailin in Battambang Province and in Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey, Kompong Thom, and Kampot Provinces.

For the past several weeks, the SRV has no longer tried to hide the presence of Vietnamese Army units and the intervention launched in Cambodia by the Vietnamese forces from the eyes of international observers and journalists as it used to do before.

In doing this, the SRV has three well-defined goals as follows:

1. The SRV has tried to strengthen and prevent the Khmer-Viet Minh communist regime that Vietnam has installed as its tool in Cambodia from collapsing. This Khmer-Viet Minh communist regime is becoming more corrupt and falling apart.

2. The SRV is continuing its attempt to destroy the peace plan worked out for the Cambodian people by the five UN Security Council [UNSC] permanent members and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. This is because if this Perm-Five peace plan is approved and implemented in Cambodia, the SRV will be compelled to abandon the annexed Cambodian territories and withdraw all its occupation troops and militiamen from Cambodia.

3. The general elections in Cambodia to be organized and supervised by the United Nations, judging from the

votes of the Cambodian people alone, will certainly bring legal victory to the Cambodian national resistance forces and National Government of Cambodia [NGC]. As for the Khmer-Viet Minh regime, which is the out-and-out lackey of the Hanoi authorities and made up of traitors to the Cambodian motherland, it will certainly lose and fall apart.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Cambodian national resistance forces and NGC, I would like to appeal to France and Indonesia which are the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, His Excellency de Cuellar, and the five permanent members of the UNSC to do anything possible in order to make the SRV withdraw its forces immediately from Cambodia and implement the Perm-Five peace plan without any alteration.

[Dated] Beijing, 23 March 1991

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Son Sann on Reconciliation After Polls

BK2203130391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 91

["Third message of His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and prime minister of the national government of Cambodia, to the clergy and Cambodian compatriots"; date not given—recorded]

[Text] My homage to venerable monks; dear compatriots: In my previous messages, we have discussed, sought, and found the causes that have brought misery to our people for the past 20 years. According to our discussion, we have found causes both within and without the country. Among the internal causes are the splits that have kept us apart and the fact that we have failed to strictly uphold neutrality, that we have stopped respecting the law, and that there is widespread corruption in Cambodia in general, coupled with the violations of human rights and the practice of genocide. The external causes include the Hanoi Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia since antiquity. In the 1970's the Hanoi authorities volunteered to come to help the Khmer Rouge, and then they fought the Khmer Rouge and invaded and occupied Cambodia. They set up a subservient regime in Phnom Penh whose leaders include former Khmer Rouge and Khmer Vietminh [members of Hanoi-led Indochinese Communist Party]. This regime has allowed Vietnam to conduct a Vietnamization policy at will, bringing more than one million Vietnamese colonists into Cambodia, with the majority of them having been granted Cambodian citizenship by the Phnom Penh government.

I know that it is not easy to oppose the Vietnamese aggressors occupying Cambodia whose only wish is to pit Cambodians against each other and make the international community believe that the war in Cambodia is a civil war. However, we know that the current leaders in Phnom Penh are not all Vietnamese puppets. Some of them were banished, and others were found dead without any clear cause. My opinion is that if one is really a patriot, one must not be afraid to defend the supreme interests of Cambodia. One must dare to fight to prevent Cambodia from becoming another Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam].

I wish I had the chance to let the Phnom Penh leaders identify themselves as Cambodian patriots and not Vietnamese puppets. But for now, let all of us protect the Cambodian citizens who do not want to let the Khmer Rouge return to power. Likewise, they do not want to see the Vietnamese stay in Cambodia. We also have seen the general outline of the political solution of the Big Five. [words indistinct] the will of our Cambodian people to bring peace back to Cambodia. The comprehensive political solution of the Big Five constitutes an excellent framework that our four Cambodian factions, including the Phnom Penh party, have already accepted at the Jakarta meeting under the sponsorship of cochairmen Ali Alatas and Mrs. Edwige Avice on 9-10 September 1990. We also know, we have also recalled, that after Jakarta there was a meeting in Bangkok, and after the Bangkok meeting the Phnom Penh side refused to accept Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. This reminds us of the meeting between Hanoi, Vientiane, and Phnom Penh prior to the September 1990 Jakarta meeting. We have learned that at that meeting, Hanoi, Vientiane, and Phnom Penh did not want to endorse the Big Five solution. They wanted to reject this solution outright.

You have surely not forgotten that the Phnom Penh regime has refused to let the United Nations control some ministries in Phnom Penh that have direct bearing on the general elections, refused to disarm its army, would like to see the United Nations play a limited role in organizing these elections, and refused to welcome a UN peacekeeping force. All of this is tantamount to sabotaging the Big Five's comprehensive political solution. Recently, too, you have surely learned that the reshuffle of the SNC composition has received the approval of neither the cochairmen nor the other factions—namely, the samdech's, the Khmer Rouge, and the national front's factions. This is all wrong. And this mistake was intended to undermine the comprehensive political solution of the Big Five.

My homage to the venerable monks, dear compatriots, at the Paris meeting, the two cochairmen, Roland Dumas and Ali Alatas, and His Excellency Raffeuddin Ahmed explained in detail the Big Five document and yet the Phnom Penh side has refused to accept it. They assured Phnom Penh that the Big Five had no intention of dissolving the Phnom Penh government, that they would not jeopardize Cambodia's national sovereignty, and that the desire of the international community, first of all of the Big Five, is to bring peace back to Cambodia and prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to power. This was confirmed by those gentlemen in Paris at the end of

last year. Since then, the leaders in Phnom Penh have maintained that the Khmer Rouge remain the obstacle, the major threat. They have been refusing to disarm their army. And they know that there is no way of bringing peace back to Cambodia without disarmament. If Phnom Penh refuses to be disarmed, the other factions would refuse too. If all factions remained armed, no peace would be possible. For this reason, we have asked the United Nations to come to Cambodia to keep peace and prevent the Khmer Rouge from seizing power through the use of their armed forces. On the contrary, the other side has limited the UN role and insisted on the presence of only a limited UN international peacekeeping force. How can it fulfill its duty, then? I would like to ask my compatriots to ponder that.

In January-February 1991, His Excellency Ali Alatas, Mrs. Edwige Avice, and His Excellency Raffeuddin Ahmed, representative of the UN Secretary General, went to Hanoi to persuade Vietnam to accept the Big Five peace plan for Cambodia. Hanoi outwardly pretended to understand the explanation and said it wanted to help the two cochairmen in finding solution to the remaining questions. But in reality, Hanoi continued to be the main obstacle to the Big Five solution. This is for your information. Vietnam kept saying it wanted to bring an early comprehensive solution to the Cambodia problem, but actually it remained an obstacle, making virtually no compromises. We also know that Hanoi asked Phnom Penh not to make it too easy for the UN solution to succeed.

We would like to inform the leaders in Phnom Penh that at the same time the Vietnamese said they themselves wanted an early solution, you in Phnom Penh should make known that you, too, want an early solution. The Phnom Penh leaders, who have always been taken as Vietnmamese puppets, should make people see that you are no Vietnamese puppets at all, that you always think of the interests of Cambodia, that you are patriots. You should accept the plan. There is no interest in rejecting it any longer. Since the Big Five have proposed this solution and you have kept rejecting it, the whole world has already seen that the obstacle to the Big Five solution comes from Phnom Penh. Therefore, you should do something so that they will stop thinking that. You should accept the plan so that the world will see you as true Cambodian patriots.

I also would like to affirm to the Phnom Penh leaders that the United Nations recognizes the national government of Cambodia headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and not the regime installed in Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese aggressors. The Phnom Penh regime has no [word indistinct] to fully accept the Big Five comprehensive political solution because the French and Indonesian cochairmen have repeatedly stressed that there can be no changes to the Big Five comprehensive political solution, for this solution takes into consideration the aspiration of the entire Cambodian nation, of the entire Cambodian people.

It was learned that the Phnom Penh leaders announced that elections would be held in 1992. The brothers in Cambodia surely know that elections held by the illegal regime installed in Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese aggressors can be nothing but illegal. Likewise, all the commitments signed with Vietnam by the Phnom Penh regime are null and void. Only the Big Five comprehensive political solution authorizes all of us to hold free and fully legal general elections to be attended by the four Cambodian factions, including the Phnom Penh regime. This is the only legal procees. Any other would be illegal.

My homage to venerable monks, dear compatriots, it is time for us to sum up. The international community, ASEAN countries, the United Nations, and the UN Security Council have helped us find a solution to bring peace back to Cambodia. The Big Five—the Five UN Security Council permanent members—has elaborated a comprehensive political solution to settle the Cambodian problem. As I just said, and you surely have not forgotten, Hanoi has verbally announced that it would help the efforts of the two cochairmen. What should all of us Cambodians do then? In my opinion, our four Cambodian factions should immediately and fully accept the Big Five comprehensive political solution and then immediately convene our SNC in order to clearly arrange the comprehensive political solution. All of us should be cohesive and should think of the destiny of Cambodia and the sufferings of our compatriots.

Moreover, the Paris conference should be reconvened as soon as possible in order to make a decision on the Cambodian problem in general, namely, to withdraw all foreign forces, all Vietnamese troops, and all illegal Vietnamese colonists from Cambodia; to impose a ceasefire and disarm all armies of the four Cambodian factions; to let the United Nations keep peace, repatriate Cambodian refugees as soon as possible, and organize free general elections in a neutral atmosphere; and to join all hands with international assistance in rebuilding our motherland with the help of the United Nations, the presence of the UN international peacekeeping force, and the financial assistance of all rich and powerful countries, including Japan, to help rebuild our country as soon as possible.

I regret that a Cambodian faction that has close contacts with Vietnam has not contributed to the rapid restoration of our country because since the Paris conference in August 1989, fighting has been going on in Cambodia with more Cambodians killed, wounded, disabled, widowed, or orphaned virtually every day. If all of us agreed with each other and thought only of the national interests and the interests of the Cambodian people, we should have solved the Cambodian problem even before the Gulf war erupted. You know that millions and even billions of dollars were spent each day in the war in Kuwait and Iraq. As we keep dragging our foot in solving the Cambodian problem those countries that want to help us will get fed up with us, and when we finally agree with each other, the big powers will have little money left for our national reconstruction because, by then, they

would have spent so much on rebuilding Kuwait and Iraq. This mistake will be glaring for anyone that stands in the way of the solution.

I, however, would like to inform you that any peace that is brokered only by all the big countries of the international community would not last long. My opinion is that it is because we are too [word indistinct]. Lord Buddha taught us to be self- reliant, and my belief based on the history of Cambodia is that peace as well as independence could be won by national reconciliation within the framework of democracy and nationalism.

We are a small nation. Since 1970 we have lost millions of compatriots. I do not know how many thousands of our intellectuals, engineers, doctors, physicians, specialists, professors, and students have perished. If we really have the interests of our country and people at heart, we should not let Cambodians continue to kill each other any longer.

The Khmer Rouge are evil. But should we exterminate all Khmer Rouge? I would like to inform you that there are several former Khmer Rouge in Phnom Penh itself. I also know that within the ranks of the Khmer Rouge as well as in Phnom Penh there are some Cambodians who want to see freedom restored and human rights respected. Some brothers either on the Phnom Penh side or the Khmer Rouge side who profess to want freedom and human rights have been killed, jailed, fired, or placed under house arrest. I beg all responsible brothers on all sides to please be kind and to match your words with deeds. Do what you announced you would do. Please respect the freedom of each person, respect religions, the family institution, and liberal economy. If all of us agree to unite in democracy and nationalism, we must respect the basic freedoms, such as the freedom of religion and the freedom to found a family, respect human rights, combat corruption, reject [words indistinct] socialism, and respect the sovereignty of our Cambodian people. Let our people take part in free general elections organized by the Big Five and the United Nations and choose any regime they like so that we can be reunited and reconciled. Let us not fight to see who is right or who is wrong. If we do so, all would claim to be right and no one would accept blame. In reality, all of us Cambodians are wrong. We all are wrong; otherwise, our country would not have been so battered and our people so miserable. All of us are wrong. Let us not try to shift the blame on others. So, what should we do? Since 1986 I have begged all of you not to fight over who is right and who is wrong.

Good-bye, venerable monks and compatriots.

Philippines

Aquino Reassures on Early Pullout of U.S. Troops

HK2303041291 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] President Aquino said that American troops do not have to leave the country prior to the originally agreed date of their withdrawal. The president gave this assurance in reaction to the premature withdrawal of American troops from Capas Naval Radio Transmitter Facility last 31 January which resulted in massive theft of equipment by looters. Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos attributed that incident to miscommunication on the early pullout of American troops from the radar facility in Tarlac. Nonetheless, Orbos did not point to any government agency as responsible for the incident.

PACT Meeting With U.S. Hinges on Bases Pact

HK2503053891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 25 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] Diplomatic sources said over the weekend that the sixth round of the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks (PACT) would convene only if Manila is ready to "initial" the proposed security accord guaranteeing continued American operation of vital military installations in the country.

Sources pointed out that U.S. Chief Negotiator Richard Armitage has agreed to continue with the PACT process and come back to Manila only to forge the proposed treaty of cooperation, friendship and security and "not for further discussions or negotiations." The 1947 RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement, as amended, which covers the lease of U.S. military facilities here, terminates on September 16, 1991.

This development emerged amid speculations that the terms of the bases treaty have already been agreed upon in Washington during the trip of Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus late last month for supposed liberal technical consultations following the failure of both panels to agree on the duration of a transition period and the terms of the compensation package during the fifth round of PACT early last month.

Armitage last week was quoted as saying that a new security accord will be reached between Manila and Washington on April 10. The sixth round of PACT, according to Manglapus, resumes "first part of April."

A source close to the RP panel also said that there has been no agreement yet on two vital issues—compensation and duration—and both panels are still far apart on other "smaller but equally important points" of the treaty.

Although he admitted that there have been "tentative agreements" he said those are not final until there is an entire agreement. He said that with those remaining issues, a concluding round of discussions is necessary before the two panels could come up with the final draft of the treaty.

The source stressed that the RP panel headed by Manglapus is still insisting on its demands. He said that the minimum requirement of the Philippine government to allow a seven-year extension is an $825 million annual compensation package—$400 million in "cash or convertible cash" and $425 million in nonbudgetary items.

However, Manglapus early this month indicated that the Philippines would be willing to agree to the terms of the U.S. provided Washington is ready to meet the financial demands of the RP panel. The U.S. has been insisting on its demands—a 10-12 year transition period and a residual American military presence thereafter. U.S. officials also want the access arrangement to be stipulated in the new accord.

Manglapus said that while the Philippine government is "willing to consider" the U.S. money offer, it would do so only if the Economic Support Fund (ESF) component would be increased to at least $300 million annually.

The U.S. has offered $360 million consisting of $120 million ESF, $200 million Foreign Ministry Financing (FMF) and $40 million Development Assistance (DA). The Philippines wants an increased ESF component because of its convertibility to cash, which will be used for a planned debt-reduction program.

Aquino Sees End to Insurgency 'Very Soon'

HK2303015491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] President Aquino sees an end to the insurgency problem very soon. She expressed this belief in her speech during the 94th anniversary of the Philippine Army. At the same time, President Aquino assured that the remaining leaders of the failed coups will fall into the hands of the authorities.

[Begin Aquino recording in English] We began to reverse the tide with a new approach, the SOT [Strategic Operations Team] strategy, a forerunner of the president's AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] counterinsurgency plan, called "Lambat Bitag [Net Trap]." With the effective implementation of this plan, we foresee the end of insurgency even if the era it had afflicted passes away. [end recording]

Editorial on 'Indiscriminate' Bombings in Marag

HK2503051891 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Marag Lesson—Civilians Bear the Brunt of War"]

[Text] It is well that House of Representatives has decided to investigate charges of human rights violations and other abuses said to have been committed by the Armed Forces in its counter-insurgency operations in Marag valley, Kalinga-Apayao.

Reports received by the House Committee on human rights say that the Marag valley operations have resulted in the death of at least 100 civlians, including 74 children, the displacement of 3,000 villagers and the destruction of about 3,000 houses.

The military has admitted that since last October, it had droped 13500-pound bombs and 26260-pound bombs and had fired 2,900 bullets from .50 caliber machineguns and 160 rockets into Marag valley. An INQUIRER report quotes the Marag Valley Campaign Committee as saying that the military dropped 101 bombs, fired 150 mortar shells and 81 helicopter rockets. It fielded 2,650 soldiers, three Tora-Tora bombers, three jet fighters, and six helicopters.

The intense bombing and artillery fire have killed nine rebels and wounded 123. Five government soldiers were killed. The innocent and defenseless civilians, as usual, suffered the greater casualties and damage, as shown by the figures cited above. And they continue to suffer although the intensity of the fighting may have diminished. Reports say the people of Marag valley have been forced to flee into the forests, bringing with them only the clothes they were wearing. They cannot even cook, for the smoke would only give away their location to troopers who, suspecting that anyone who is not a soldier is an NPA [New People's Army] rebel, fire indiscriminately.

At least 89 evacuees, 84 of whom were children, have died of measles, severe dehydration, urinary tract infection, intestinal parasitism and other ailments. Those still livig are seriously malnourished.

For its part, the military said that they dropped leaflets urging Marag residents to leave before the operations. Brig. Gen. Homer Capulong, commander of the 501st Infantry Brigade, said the leaflets would have served as their "passport" to evacuation centers in Luna, but nobody took advantage of their offer. He said the military used planes and helicopters to drop bombs and fired heavy artillery barrages to "soften" rebel resistance.

It seems that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is copying the tactics of the U.S.-led coalition in the Desert Storm operation in softening up the enemy with bombardment and artillery fire before moving in with the ground forces. But the difference is that the allied forces had "smart bombs" and computer-guided artillery pieces which could minimize civilian casualties or "collateral" damage. In the Marag valley operation, the AFP has only conventional, decades-old bombs and canon which cannot distinguish between friend and foe or between civlians and NPA rebels. Thus, scores of civilians caught in the crossfire hve been killed.

The coming House inquiry should determine wheather it is necessary to resort to bombing and artillery fire in the Marag operation. Could not the military fight the NPA rebels more effectively, using the same guerrilla tactics which they are using? Could not the AFP revive the Scout Rangers, who proved very effective in past operations, and use them against the rebel concentration in Marag? This way, civilian casualties could be reduced to a minimum.

The congressional inquiry should also look into possible human rights violations by the military. The charges include not only the summary execution of civilians but also the imposition of a blockade on supplies that has

deprived the people of basic services and food, a ban on relief workers, destruction of property and bombings and strafings in civilian areas.

President Aquino last Friday predicted the end of the communist rebellion, and apparently her military commanders are in a hurry to make her prediction a reality. But while the NPA insurgency has to be stamped out, the Armed Forces should ensure that innocent civilians are not killed in indiscriminate bombing and artillery fire.

Reportage on Launching of Ramos' Presidential Bid

Applies for LDP Membership

HK2203134991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 22 Mar 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] The defense secretary confirmed today that he is joining the Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP]. In an interview, Ramos admitted that he has forwarded his application to the party leadership and it is up to them whether to accept him. The said application was forwarded by Ramos at a meeting held last night. Ramos reiterated that he is joining the LDP not as a demolitionist or a cause for the party's fragmentation as other political leaders say. He is hoping to be a positive factor in the said party.

[Begin Ramos recording in English] It appears that I was accepted by the party, but it will be up to the secretary general to announce that. I have to undertake the necessary steps before they call an oath taking. [end recording]

Reiterates Presidential Aspirations

HK2503020991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Mar 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos will not accept any other position except the candidacy for president. In an interview after launching the United Power People Movement, Ramos said the principles and ideals of the people power revolution in February 1986 should be realized. He cited that people's unity is needed so we can overcome difficulties and challenges toward a better life. Furthermore, he said that the president's endorsement is important. At the same time, Ramos withdrew his initial statement that he has already submitted his application to the LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] leadership, while saying that this is only verbal. Ramos denied that he is already a member of the LDP.

[Begin Ramos recording in English] But I shall aspire for the highest office in this land. But as I said in my speech, this is what must be done if we are to carry out the principles and the ideals of the people power revolution at Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] in February 1986. [end recording]

Ramos added:

[Begin recording in English] If I will be asked to be affiliated to the LDP, this, however, has all been verbal, unlike what the newspapers have said. Therefore they will follow a process. [end recording]

When asked about what he will do if he is not chosen to run as LDP standard bearer, Ramos said he will know when he faces the situation. He added that he has the right not to disclose to the public all his plans.

Editorial on Ramos' Movement

HK2503051991 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 25 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Economic Growth an Important Platform"]

[Text] The launching Saturday by the defense secretary, Fidel Ramos, of his candidature for the presidency, has clearly identified two serious contenders, the other being Senate President Jovito Salonga. The formal declaration of intentions is the first stage of the process of elimination and selection which will culminate in the convention of the political parties. It will certainly put pressure on other aspirants to make an early announcement of their intentions.

It must, however, be understood that there is nothing certain that Mr. Ramos will be an official party standard bearer. He is in search of a party; it is an essential precondition that a candidate must have a political vehicle which is sufficiently organized with a national network to carry out a successful campaign.

Because he is not part of any existing party, Mr. Ramos did the right thing tactically; his bid was launched by a new political movement, the United People's Power Movement. The formation of a political movement may serve as a stepping stone for either increasing his leverage in being adopted by a party or creating a new party if he fails in the first alternative.

So, it makes sense that the movement was formed at the same time that he is negotiating his entry into the loosely structured majority coalition, Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], where he faces tough competition from the party regulars led by Speaker Ramon Mitra, who has signalled his presidential ambitions but who stil has to declare his bid officially.

If Mr. Ramos can demonstrate within the next few months that his movement can gain momentum, this will improve his chances for success in winning the party's nomination. Mr. Ramos' move is reminiscent of the path taken by a previous defense secretary, Ramos Magsaysay, into winning the Nacionalista Party [NP] nomination in 1953.

Before Magsaysay entered the NP convention, there had been built a powerful groundswell for him propelled by his brilliant record in breaking the Huk rebellion and restoring morale in the armed forces, as well as faith in the potential of the civil government to rejuvenate itself from the malaise of corruption. When the movement showed that it had widespread popular backing, the NP leaders had no

choice but to nominate Magsaysay. Their primary concern was to win the elections, and Magsaysay and the MPM [expansion unknown] showed he was a sure winner. Mr. Ramos is trying to revive the Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] spirit to give a mystique in his presidential bid. No doubt, he played a central role in the Edsa uprising, and the vision that he proclaimed in Saturday's rally of the new movement indicates that he intends to translate the aspirations of Edsa into a concrete political program.

If one reads the outlines of the program carefully, it covers the areas of promoting economic growth, improving administrative efficiency in delivering government services to the people and decentralization of government. The last issue is gaining impetus and it can no longer be avoided if presidential contenders expect to get support from provincial executives.

There is at least an attempt, in the vision spelled out by the new movement, to give a policy identification for the Ramos candidature.

One may argue that the Ramos bid has been announced too early; that is to say, it faces the risk of peaking too soon. However, Mr. Ramos has, during his entire career in the armed forces, been extremely careful, if not too slow, in calculating his chances for success. In all the most important decisions in his career, Mr. Ramos has not made any false move. For example, in his decision to join the military rebellion with the former defense minister, Juan Ponce Enrile, Mr. Ramos broke with the Marcos government at the last hour. This transformed him, as well as Mr. Enrile, the heroes of the hour. Both captured the mood of revolt of the nation against the old regime, and they, indeed, incarnated it with their rebellion.

Success in politics flows from correct timing of one's moves. It is not clear at this stage if Mr. Ramos' sense of timing is correct; only the events in the next few months can prove him right or wrong. Issues can change. The security issue, with which Mr. Ramos is most identified with, is receding in importance with the diminishing threat from the communist insurgency and the ultra-right wing rebellion within the armed forces.

Mr. Ramos must identify himself with issues that are gaining more importance, not least of which is the growth of the economy. Any serious contender for the presidency must be seen as potential economic managers. The performance of the economy during the rest of the decade is the most important issue for the next election, and any serious contender for the presidency must demonstrate at least the potential of being a competent economic manager. It is not enough that one can crush rebellions, in the same way that it is not enough to restore democratic institutions.

Thailand

Outcome of Air Talks With U.S. 'Big Surprise'

BK2303010391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Mar 91 p B1

[Text] In a surprise move, Thailand's negotiators in the bilateral aviation talks with the United States have agreed to allow US carriers to maintain their present frequency of 38 flights a week until October.

Described by some as swinging the momentum of the issue to the US negotiating team, the five days of talks in Bangkok over the aviation agreement, which ended yesterday, concluded with an extension of the existing flight frequency to the surpirse of industry observers.

However in a joint statement issued yesterday, both sides described the talks as producing "substantial progress" toward reaching a final agreement. They agreed to resume talks sometime in the next few months in Washington DC in order to finalize the bilateral air service agreement.

The outcome of the talks, however, was a big surprise as earlier the Thai negotiating team was insisting that the US airlines would be required to cut back their services to Bangkok from 38 to 28 flights a week. This would then allow Thai Airways International [THAI] and other regional airlines to form an alliance to take over the slots in the lucrative Asian market.

Rungrot Soiprasoetsuk, deputy director-general of the Department of Aviation, and chief of the Thai delegation, said significant progress during the talks led to the Thai side agreeing to allow the US carriers to maintain the present frequency level until October, pending the final agreement. More significantly, he said, it marked the first time that the US had agreed to include the issue of capacity arrangement in the framework of the talks, something Thailand had stongly insisted on in all the previous rounds. "But details on how to regulate such services remain to be further discussed," he added.

Since the bilateral air service agreement expired in November last year, the airlines of both countries have been operating on a temporary reciprocal basis. Talks to renew the accord broke down in Washington DC last year amid sharp differences over the way in which the agreement was to be struck.

The bilateral talks which concluded yesterday appear to indicate that the US has strengthened its position over Thailand which previously had adopted a tough stand in demanding that the US airlines make a significant cutback in their services.

The Thai delegation had accused the US carriers of exercising the "fifth freedom" against the interests of THAI by flying more passengers from the major stopovers such as Japan, Taiwan or South Korea than from the original departure points in the United States.

It is not clear yet as whether the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] had played a decisive role in the Thai team's positional shift. But is was reported by REUTER earlier that following the coup last month, US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue had met with Sunthon Khongsomphong, chief of the NPKC.

Army To Launch Operation Against Communists

BK2403033091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Nan—The army will launch a military operation today aimed at wiping out remnants of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) taking refuge in jungles along the Thai-Laotian border here, military sources said yesterday.

The sources said about 50-60 communist insurgents are believed to be still remaining in the rugged terrain straddling the border in Mae Charim district, Bo Klao sub-district and Santisuk sub-district.

"This will probably be the last military operation against the CPT," said one of the sources. They said about 300 soldiers, mostly from the Phetchabun-based Cavalry Division and rangers as well as border patrol policemen, will take part in the month-long military campaign with support from a number of helicopter gunships and OV-10 aircraft. The sources said units of the forces have already been moved into forward positions and were ready to attack the suspected hideouts of the insurgents.

"Before launching our military action, we will drop leaflets to urge the insurgents to abandon their their arms and surrender," a source said. He said leaflets will be dropped over five areas where the insurgents are believed to be hiding. The sources also noted that drug traffickers are also using the areas for sanctuary but it was not known whether they are also a target of the operation.

Authorities have reportd no communist military activities in Nan during the past several years but the sources insisted that communist insurgents were still active in those areas in Nan.

The CPT, considered by past governments as the country's No. 1 enemy, has been militarily routed in all parts of the country. Nan once hosted one of the outlawed party's biggest strongholds and for years was a scene of successive bloody military operations.

The CPT in Nan was greatly weakened by a major military operation in late 1983 which subsequently led to a mass defection by insurgents and sympathizers the same year.

The operation, which has been not been officially disclosed, comes less than two weeks after Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun visited Laos to discuss closer military relations. But it was not known whether it was raised during his talks with Laotian leaders.

BBC Interviews Anan on Transitional Government

BK2303012791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Mar 91 p A1

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, declaring "I can operate", expressed strong optimism yesterday that the military would keep its pledges to return to democracy and give him a substantially free hand during the transitional period.

In his first formal interview with a foreign news agency, Anan told the BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (BBC) that the Feb 23 coup was a "setback" but said he strongly hoped it was a "temporary setback".

"It won't be a long backward step. I hope we can now begin to move forward," he said during the five-minute interview that began with a brief introduction by the reporter who interviewed him. He said he had accepted the military junta's offer to become the caretaker prime minister because "I thought there was a need to cooperate with them and help them out of a bad situation. I believe that they had a genuine desire to have a civilian government. And I think that, irrespective of what happened, they professed a genuine desire to return to a democratic rule within the shortest possible time."

The NPKC's [National Peacekeeping Council's] interim Constitution stipulates that a general election will be held within April next year.

"In a way, I was cornered (to become caretaker prime minister)," Anan said. "And I thought, well, perhaps I had to do something to help the country." Anan described as "hypothetical" a question on what he would do if the military did not keep its promise to return to a democratic rule. "I cannot really answer. We cross the bridge when we come to it."

The prime minister also defended the military's imposition of martial law, saying it was something "necessary during a transititional period" during which "the people who assumed power don't want anything untoward to happen". He said Thailand's martial law was different from other countries'. "(The word) martial law sounds threatening, but I think those who know Thailand would know very well that nothing has changed in this country. There is no press censorship, there are no curfews, there are no restrictions of movement and so forth," he said. The business sector was not affected by martial law, neither were tourists, he added.

Asked if the felt he had sufficient power to run the government, Anan said he and the military junta were working as a team. "Up to now, I have no reason to believe it's not working. I have maintained my freedom of action and my independent stand. I think the results of the events of the past two weeks should prove beyond any doubt that, yes, I can operate."

Anan asserted early this week that the government has full authority to oversee the pricing direction of consumer goods in accordance with free-market principles. Earlier reports had indicated that the NPKC had pressured producers of basic goods to cut their prices, basing its rationale on reduced oil prices. There were also rumours that Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on might consider resigning from the interim Cabinet over what appeared to be a policy clash between the government and the military.

The prime minister's emphasis yesterday that his relations with the military were good followed a similar remark by NPKC leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong.

"There is nothing to worry about," Sunthon said. "We are working comfortably together."

The NPKC hosted a dinner for Anan on Thursday evening in what Sunthon described as an "ordinary function". "There was nothing special. We didn't even talk about the government's policy which is being drafted," the supreme commander said. "The prime minister looked very happy. He laughed all the time."

Sunthon Dares Former MP's To Set Up Government

BK2503010591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday dared former MPs [members of Parliament] to set up a government in competition with the NPKC.

The Supreme Commander made the remark when asked to comment on reports that a group of former MPs, including former student activist Sutham Saengprathum, would set up a committee to draft a constitution.

Mr Sutham reportedly said the constitution-drafting would be done simultaneously with the drafting of the constitution by a panel to be set up by the National Legislative Assembly. He reportedly said a public referendum would be conducted to sound out public opinion on which of the two drafts they prefer. Commenting on the reports, Genf Sunthon said: "Good. Why don't they go ahead and set up their own government?"

On reports that deposed prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who is in England on his way to Switzerland, would return to Thailand next month, Gen Sunthon said there would be no problem. Gen Chachai's son, Kraisak, is also welcome, he said.

Gen Sunthon declined to comment on a report that Kraisak would speak in London about the recent military takeover. "I have no comment. This is Thailand, not England," he said.

Sunthon Discusses Possible Extradition of Manun

BK2203142891 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong spoke to newsmen today about a report that Major General Manun Rupkhachon is taking refuge in Germany, saying that he has received no report on the matter and adding that if it is true he will have to consult others on legal action to extradite Manun.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Can the German Government be asked to extradite Manun?

[Sunthon] We will have to consult legal specialists about the type of cases pending against him.

[Reporter] If he is seeking political asylum, can he be extradited?

[Sunthon] The legal aspect of the issue has to be looked into. We want to bring him back here.

[Reporter] If legal action is to be taken against him on the existing charges, he can be extradited, can he not?

[Sunthon] Extradition should be possible. He is facing a criminal charge; it does not concern political asylum.

[Reporter] He reportedly is seeking political asylum?

[Sunthon] We will have to confirm the matter. If he is in Germany, we will try to bring him back.

[Reporter] It appears that the state enterprise union issue is intensifying because academics and students are joining to oppose the issue. Can you comment?

[Sunthon] We have to hold consultations on the issue. We do not want any particular group to enjoy privileges above the law. [end recording]

Military, Labor Leaders Reach 'Understanding'

BK2303013591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Mar 91 p A1, A2

[By Charoenlak Phetpradap, Prakopphong Panaphun, and Sorayut Suthatsanachinda]

[Text] Military and labour leaders ended their confrontation yesterday after what was described as a "cordial" meeting during which they discussed the armed forces' controversial move to ban or contain union activities at state enterprises.

The labour leaders assured the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) that they would not resort to work stoppages to protest its policy of wanting to exclude state enterprises from the Labour Relations Act. The NPKC, meanwhile, appeared more receptive to the unionists' views, though it would not say whether the policy would be revised or suspended.

"We have understood each other," said Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, deputy NPKC leader who met about 30 labour leaders at the NPKC heaquarters for about an hour.

"The atmosphere was very good," Ekkachai Ekhankamon, secretary-general of the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority, told reporters in a separate interview. "There is a better understanding between us."

Suchinda triggered a labour outcry last week when he said one of the NPKC's objectives after staging the coup on Feb 23 was to remove state enterprises from the labour law, which allows workers to strike. He said martial law, imposed after the coup, would be in effect until the goal was achieved.

Yesterday's meeting took place after Interior Minister Issarapong Nunphakdi, the NPKC secretary-general, said on Thursday that the legal amendment plan would

be delayed until the country's new constitution is promulgated. Issarapong's statement was seen as a significant softening of the NPKC's stand.

Suchinda said he and labour leaders "exchanged views" during yesterday's meeting. "They insisted they don't want to see state enterprises excluded from the Labour Relations Act and we listened to them," the army chief said. Suchinda said he was assured that state enterprise unionists would not fight for their cause by disrupting public services. Asked if the NPKC still stood firm on the controversial policy, Suchinda said: "I can't give an answer yet. There are people working on it and we have to wait for final recommendations."

Sane Tantisano, secretary-general of the State Enterprises Relations Group, said Suchinda assured the labour leaders that their views would be taken into consideration if the labour law is really to be amended. Sane said Suchinda was receptive to the labour leaders' complaint about criticism of the army radio against state enterprise unionists.

Thailand's leading labour expert, Nikhom Chantharawithun, meanwhile, proposed yesterday that an advisory committee be set up to study problems at state enterprises. The committee should comprise government officials, unionists and independent labour specialists, he said.

The NPKC's policy has draw mixed reactioin. Proponents say it would pave the way for the privitization of state enterprises which have financial difficulties or show a poor performance. Unionists have resorted to strikes in protesting past attempts to allow private sector involvement in the operation of their agencies.

Nikhom said he was personally opposed to the NPKC's policy. "In my opinion, we should invite all 120 state enterprise unions nationwide to a meeting and ask them to do the right thing," he said.

Previous tension caused by the NPKC's policy has prompted concern that the labour movement would not be able to hold its annual May Day celebration this year. Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said yesterday he was consulting the Interior Ministry on the matter. "There should not be any problem," Anan said.

Vietnam

Nguyen Co Thach, Australian Official on Cambodia

BK2203153891 Hanoi VNA in English 1502 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 22—Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has received here the deputy secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who paid a working visit to Vietnam from March 20-21.

The two diplomats discussed ways to promote the cooperation and friendship between the two countries and exchanged views on the Cambodian issue.

Nguyen Co Thach reiterated Vietnam's sincere wish for an early overall political solution to the Cambodian conflict based on the respect for the U.N Charter and Cambodia's sovereignty.

Vietnam, he stressed, supports the early reconvening of the conference of the two co-charmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the members of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (S.N.C) so that the SNC may solve internal problems of Cambodia as a premise for a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Nguyen Co Thach recalled Vietnam's statement on February 28 calling for an early cease-fire in Cambodia and the suspension of all arms supply from outside. This would be a necessary step to push up the process toward an overall political solution, he said.

Trade Delegation Visits Australia, Signs Pact

BK2503051991 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] A governmental and trade delegation led by Mr. Hoang Minh Thang, minister of commerce and president of the Vietnamese section in the Vietnam-Australia Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Trade Cooperation visited Australia recently.

The delegation, guest of the Australian Government, attended the first session of the intergovernmental commission. The two sides reaffirmed their common desire to broaden bilateral economic and trade cooperation and friendly relations and to bring the two-way trade turnover to 100 million U.S. dollars in 1991. The Australian Government agreed to continue financing Vietnam's development projects through organizations in the United Nations system and grant credit to ensure exports to Vietnam. The two sides exchanged views on the orientation and possibility for Australian investment in mining, oil exploration, telecommunications, farm produce processing, assembly of small-size lorries and refrigeration equipment, tourism, training, and business and market management in Vietnam.

Minister Hoang Minh Thang and Australian Minister of Trade Negotiations Neil Blewett signed an agreement on investment insurance and agreed to cooperate in preparing a number of other relevant agreements to be signed later. The Vietnamese delegation held talks with Senator John Button, minister of industry, technology, and commerce, and Senator Gareth Evans, foreign minister, on bilateral economic and trade relations, and had working sessions with a number of state ministers on similar issues. It also met with many Australian businessmen, bankers, and manufacturers to introduce Vietnam's new economic policy, and toured a number of factories producing food processing equipment for Vietnam.

Firms Stepping Up Investments Despite U.S. Ban

BK2403114891 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] The Japanese paper MAINICHI last Tuesday, 19 March, ran an article saying Japan and some Western countries are accelerating their investments in Vietnam though the U.S. economic sanctions against Vietnam have not yet been lifted. The paper said: Since the later half of 1990, the relations between Japan and Vietnam have been improved considerably.

After the visit to Japan by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach in September last year, Japanese officials and companies have still maintained close contacts with Vietnam.

Army Paper Welcomes Results of USSR Referendum

BK2503091691 Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 25—"The results of the March 17 referendum in the Soviet Union's referendum clearly demonstrate that the maintenance and building of a united renovated Union of Soviet Socialist Republics corresponds to the interests and aspiration of the majority of the Soviet people of all nationalities, says QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in a commentary today."

The paper says:

"Right at this most difficult and decisive moment the majority of the Soviet people expressed their determination to improve, not to destroy, their common home, and to build a stable country through joint efforts.

"The most crucial condition for the Soviet society at present is to achieve stability through the joint efforts of all nationalities and of all socio-political trends for the common objective: that is, to build a strong, unified, renovated union, so that it may make big contributions to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in the world, " the paper concludes.

Article Says Renovation Achievements 'Undeniable'

BK1603114591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Unattributed essay in "Today's Problems" feature: "Our Renovation Achievemments Are Undeniable"]

[Text] It has been exactly six years since the sixth party congress—a period during which the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee defied the tough challenges of history, and joined the entire people in seeing the country over its grave economic crisis. This is when the communists, their people and state, looked for and opened a way to renovation. They are steeped in the socialist ideal, as they gradually overcome serious shortcomings and mistakes of the past.

Important tasks for the coming Seventh National Party Congress are reviewing the renovation carried out in this term of office, evaluating achievements and shortcomings as well as advantages and difficulties and the reasons why, and coming up with their solutions.

In developing democracy and listening to views of the people of various strata, the CPV Central Committee has publicized many documents and urged all to contribute constructive views. People's confidence in the party has once again been demonstrated through the thousands of suggestions, letters, and petitions, expressing their desire to share the party's responsibility in finding the best ways to continue making progress in the renovation.

In a developed democracy, different and contradictory views are common. Everyone's view deserves attention and respect and no one has a monopoly on truth. Facts will distinguish right from wrong. However, one notices that apart from several well-intentioned views, there are some erratic ideas. Against visible facts, some people continue to deny those renovation achievements which our people and state have spent untold efforts to achieve. They have made one-sided assessments and have inflated the negative aspects at the expense of the positive. To them, life is bleak everywhere. The state apparatus is allegedly impotent, and party cadres and members degenerate, thus losing grass-root confidence.

Worthy of note is that these few protesting voices have suddenly been given wide publicity by several Western newspapers and radios. Obviously, Western propaganda has praised these protestors as genuine renovators and upright people who dare to struggle and speak the truth. It is easily understandable that by denying the gains of renovation, they are heading towards a denial of the party leadership and the socialist ideal. This also seems to be an imitation of the tricks used by certain forces aimed at tarnishing the Communist Party, attacking Marxism-Leninism, and totally negating all the gains of the 70 years of socialist construction in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. If the views of these people are not an imitation, then they should be seen as the supporters of those who have recently posed as democratic fighters and reformists who have risen up against communism in various East European countries. Everyone knows the tragic consequences these countries are facing.

Fortunately, in such a disastrous crisis, the CPV, with the political acumen of a party forged from a revolution full of difficu'ties and ordeals, has confronted all these challenges calmly, clearly, and bravely, resolving not to steer the Vietnamese boat along that thorny course.

In the early days of the crisis in Eastern Europe, there were numerous public allegations against our party for its half-hearted renovation and conservatism, and criticism of Marxism-Leninism as a messy, inflexible, and utopian doctrine. The people making these allegations called themselves genuine pioneers, creators, and renovators. The whirlwind that later swept through Eastern

Europe caused their allegations to gradually die down, though they won some support initially. Facts have been verified and truth continues to be as bright as day. What would have happened if our party had also bowed to the demand for renovation? Many people of conscience in several fraternal parties have repented too late, as their administrations have already disappeared, their parties splintered, and genuine communists tracked down. These countries have paid dearly for opposing communist despotism. Given this alone, those who truly respect the objective truth cannot help admitting that this is a great success of our party. If our party Central Committee and government was a totally impotent apparatus with obsolete methods and thinking as certain people have charged, how could this apparatus steer the Vietnamese boat on the right but difficult course of renovation. Naturally, none of us are contented with what we have gained over the past five years.

Beside successes, there are numerous shortcomings, negligence, weaknesses, deficiencies, and mistakes. The party has never managed to cover them up, nor has it blamed all these on objective reasons. Instead, it has analyzed and scrupulously criticized itself for its weaknesses caused by subjectivism. However, if the party's achievements fail to meet the aspirations of some people, this does not mean that there has not been anything positive in the past five years, as some allege.

By shifting from subsidy-based bureaucratic centralism to a state-regulated market system, we have been able to produce more goods. From a state of shortage, our agriculture sector now has surplus rice for export. The annual inflation rate of 300-400 percent has been reduced to 70-80 percent. These facts are clear. How could these be achieved without any leadership skills and efforts of the entire people? And how about various National Assembly sessions with dozens of state laws being passed and about to be implemented? Democracy has been introduced through information broadening. National defense has been firmly maintained. Security, though still basically complex, continues to be guaranteed.

One may ask how a totally impotent state with a party that is already losing the people's trust as claimed by certain people, manages to bring about such positive changes? We are not subjective. We have also not lost our vigilance. It is no doubt that these one-sided assessments aimed at denying those objective facts are being exploited night and day by the Western mass media. International anticommunist forces have not concealed their designs to create political bedlam in anticipation of our Seventh National Party Congress. But they will definitely have to swim against the current.

Renovation is a process. There is no mold that we can follow. Therefore, it is not possible to make achievements without incurring shortcomings. The problem now is to find a cure for the disease and not kill the patient.

Those attempting to negate the achievements of the renovation will certainly never feel satisfied with reality. But facts always prevail over speeches. The achievements of our country's renovation are undeniable.

Report on Views for Socioeconomic Stabilization

BK2203120391 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 Jan 91 pp 1, 3

[Phuoc Sanh report on "Views Contributed to the Draft Strategy for Socioeconomic Stabilization at a Seminar Jointly Held by the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee Economic Section and the Institute of Economics on 10 January"]

[Text] Doctor Nguyen Xuan Oanh: I have been worrying and wondering about our financial and banking tasks. These are the two most important sectors. The economy can be stabilized only if these two sectors can be built and developed so that they supplement and support each other. From late 1989 to early 1990, there was satisfactory stability. However, since we took banking laws lightly, our credits shattered, our economy destablized, and prices soared.

We still lack many funding agencies such as those which provide venture capital for producers and businessmen. Although there are banks in precincts and districts, in provinces production and business units still have to use trucks of cash to buy commodities. This is too backward. This matter has not been mentioned in the draft strategy.

I, for one, think that the finance and banking sectors must improve their operations. In this connection, it is of prime importance that some changes be made to the leading state bank. I suggest the establishment of a bank council to help the bank governor.

The bond market is mentioned in the draft strategy. This is a matter for the future. As we do not have a stock market or the aforementioned funds, how can we establish a bond market? This will be dealt with in five to seven years. Countries consider finance, currency, and banking as vehicles to develop the economy. Our economy is still slumping mainly because of the lack of such vehicles. We must get all the arms of banking and finance to control the volume of money in circulation and credits nationwide. Otherwise, it will be difficult to avoid inflation.

Engineer Do Thanh Long, deputy director of VISSAN corporation: To enable the economy to take off, there must be spearhead sectors of technology, including high technology sectors, which we must acquire immediately to obtain the best results within the shortest period possible. At the same time, there are some technology sectors from which we must gradually learn.

We must do likewise in importing technical equipment. Some modern technical equipment should be imported immediately to get really effective results, whereas others, though modern, should not be imported yet as we

are not sure whether their outputs will match that of manual labor and equipment currently available locally, or domestically manufactured at lower costs.

As a result, I suggest that guidelines be made for some technical sectors in the draft strategy. These guidelines should be learned quickly for the procurement of the most advanced equipment.

In a market-oriented economy, "kings" are badly needed in each branch of commodity and each economic domain. There are of course "kings" in the economy of a society advancing toward socialism. They are producers, businessmen, and competent management cadres. In this connection, we must have bold policies to encourage the training of such people. We can bring in foreign experts at all levels to teach, or send our people abroad to be trained. We might even hire competent foreign economists to manage some of our major economic units. This policy should be added to the draft strategy.

Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, chairwoman of Vietnam Jurists Association: The draft strategy says: Economic courts will replace the economic arbitration network. It is wrong to correct the law enforcement apparatus this way.

These are two agencies assigned separate functions. In today's world, people go to economic arbitration courts more often than to a court handling trade and business relations because the trial process takes more time. Sometimes, it may take several years. Once a trial is over, there must be a winner and a loser. It is not the same with economic arbitration.

There are many cases where signatories of contracts need the service of economic arbitrators. The verdicts of these cases do not allow signatories to break up their business arrangements but rather to continue to work together. Since there are many sectors in a market-oriented economy, this must be a guideline in the settlement of cases. Sometimes, arbitration is required for deferment in debt-payment due to a shortage of funds. Such a case can be settled effectively and quickly.

International organizations and businessmen working with us require the economic arbitration system. To expand our work with them, we must extend economic arbitration to the domains of labor and maritime navigation. This system should be organized in each region. Our city also needs it badly. The management of this system should also be unified.

We should also expand our relations with economic arbitration courts in foreign countries, participate in international conventions, and ensure our strict compliance with the stipulations of their economic arbitration courts and conventions.

Brother Diep Vi Nam, vice chairman of COTICO's Management Board: We should study to see whether it is advisable to add a clause to the draft strategy to authorize the establishment of collectives privately run by Vietnamese nationals. With the new economic policy, we have open our doors to investments from foreign capitalists whose ownership can now be 100 per cent

There are also many loyal, rich, and competent people in our country who can invest to develop the economy. Compared to foreigners, they have more advantages and a better understanding of the environment. Their income should not be allowed to be transferred abroad. Foreign investments are an important resource, but manpower and material assets in the country are even more important. If we know how to develop this resource, the results will be very good. For example: A foreigner had contracted to build the An Dong market but then declined under the pretext that his government had not authorized him to continue the project. We had already leveled the ground for construction and removed thousands of shops. Private individuals in the country have taken over the project and the construction is near completion, as scheduled.

Pharmacist Tran Van Nhieu, deputy director general of the City Joint Enterprise of Pharmaceutics: In the socio-economic strategy, we should study how our neighboring countries run their businesses in order to adopt relevant guidelines and measures. For example, I know Singapore, one of the "dragons" in Southeast Asia, plans to phase out its animal husbandry sector this year because it deems the sector no longer suitable to its present socioeconomic development conditions. Should we expand our animal husbandry sector to increase products and meet the demands of its market? We should not overlook this point.

With regards to the market issue, two more points are noteworthy: First, when talking about foreign markets we normally mention the Soviet Union, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, Western Europe... but why not the North American market? The draft strategy fails to mention this. North America is a very large market with a decisive role in the world. Many countries near us such as South Korea and Taiwan have developed dynamically due in considerable part to this market. It is not because we do not have goods that can be traded in this region: labour-intensive products such as ready-made clothes and assembled goods.

I also agree with brother Nguyen Xuan Oanh's suggestion that the draft strategy identify banking as the core and decisive sector. Although we have bank laws, banking operations are still too low compared to the requirements. The state bank must be the central bank. The entire banking sector must be reorganized to integrate all payment facilities. Truly effective ways must be devised to mobilize the huge amounts of savings of the people. We must also deal with the simplest and most normal problems to prepare ourselves for larger and more difficult areas.

'Topical Talk' Views Unemployment in Country

BK1503140391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 12 Mar 91

["Topical Talk" by Minh Duc and Vu Dinh Vinh]

[Summary] Jobs for workers in our country are becoming a burning issue of concern to the entire society. The draft strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development says: "Entering the nineties, our country's population is 66 million, of which 34 million are of working age. The Vietnamese people are traditionally patriotic, diligent, intelligent, and creative. This is the most important source of power to develop the country. However, we also know that this potential can become a true material strength only when each worker has a job. The rate of unemployment in our country is very high. Although there have been no official statistics, thus far it is estimated that the figure must be in the millions." This figure will increase because every year we have millions of graduates from schools, hundreds of thousands of workers back from abroad, discharged soldiers, laid off workers, and so forth. Even in agriculture, there are now nearly 200,000 jobless people. In the handicrafts field and artisan industry, the unemployment situation is also tense.

"When the first generator group at the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant went into operation, hundreds of thousands of workers together with their dependents became jobless. The Ministry of War Invalids and Social Welfare estimates that until the year 2000, there will be 25.9 million people in the 20-29 age group. From 1991 to 1995, jobs must be arranged for 7 million people and for at least 1.7 million in 1991 alone."

How are we going to tackle this problem? Since the Sixth Party Congress, many new and correct viewpoints on labor issues have been concretized. Part four, paragraph 2 of the draft strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development asserts: "The implementation of a multisectorial economy of commodities is aimed at exploiting all of the country's potential to build socialism. All forms of labor that produce material assets for workers and their families and for contributions to society, will be observed." The family-based economy will remain on the same par with other economic sectors within the legal framework of the socialist state. These viewpoints have created a better environment for jobs for workers. The draft strategy also set some fundamental guidelines for resolving unemployment as follows: "In rural areas, the division of labor will be expanded by vigorously accelerating the intensive cultivation of extra crops, optimally using all cultivated area, and developing animal husbandry, the economy of hills and forests, maritime products, processing industries, and the handicrafts and artisan industry. In cities, industry, handicrafts, construction, and city management will be developed vigorously; and the service sector will be expanded to support production and life. Workforce and capital will be concentrated on exploiting 10 million hectares of fallow land and bare hills, developing the sea economy, exploiting sea potential and our continental shelves, and so forth."

Although the above-mentioned objectives and measures are practical and must be urgently carried out to resolve unemployment, they are merely initial steps. In rural areas land is becoming increasingly depleted and little technology has been applied. Crop yields are low whereas population growth has increased too quickly, making intensive cultivation of extra crops and expansion of cultivated areas insignificant. In cities, some handicrafts and artisan industry installations are in short supply of raw materials and capital for production, and many factories and enterprises are suffering losses. All these have made making arrangements for jobs difficult in the long run. It is also difficult to exploit the 10 million hectares of fallow land and bare hills because of a limited state budget. According to the World Food Organization, to improve depleted soil in a tropical area, we must spend at least $20,000 per hectare.

The above analysis compels us to find the most fundamental solution to the problem of unemployment. First of all, we must determine what are the current spearheads of our economy. Are they not agricultural production and mining for raw materials, fuel, and natural resources?

"Along with creating on the spot jobs as specified in the draft strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development, is it advisable that the state build exclusive economic areas in the domains of agriculture, industry, and mining?" Such exclusive economic areas, if established, will absorb millions of workers. "Whether these areas would yield high or low results depend on many factors, namely on whether the state operational control and the state policies toward these areas are good or not. At the present stage, we resolve not to let the situation of sending people to new economic zones reoccur." Before sending the people to new economic zones, the state must make adequate preparations such as housing, hospitals, schools, electricity, water, and transportation in a uniform manner.

Together with the aforementioned measures, it is most important to minimize population growth. No matter how vigorous economic development is, it will become insignificant if the population in our country continues to increase by the millions as it is now.

Another issue involves policies on arranging jobs for discharged soldiers. There should be a specific policy to support the process of socializing soldiers to create conditions for them to reenter civilian life. "Our state should formulate policies, which means it must have a budget, a mechanism, regulations, and laws to help discharged soldiers and officers acquire some skills and jobs."

If we can accomplish the above issues well, not only will the unemployment problem no longer exist in five or six years, but also the socioeconomic and cultural situation in our country will undergo important changes.

Australia

Academic Warns of Asian Region Defense Buildup

BK2503085891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Canberra, March 25 (AFP)—Purchases of fighter aircraft and naval vessels by Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are eroding Australia's advantage in military technology, an air force conference here was told Monday.

Des Ball, head of strategic and defence studies at the Australian National University, said a "significant" military buildup in these countries was increasing tension and the risk of conflict.

He warned the conference on "conventional air power into the 21st century" that "the defence preparation time that would be available to the Australian Defence Force (ADF), should the strategic circumstances in the region deteriorate, will be compressed."

Professor Ball said that the acquisition of modern fighter aircraft and missile-equipped patrol boats by Southeast Asian countries was "inevitably and irreversibly eroding" Australia's advantage.

"In any prospective regional conflict," he said, "the ADF will not be the only party employing advanced technology weapons systems."

The conference is being held to celebrate the Royal Australian Air Force's 70th anniversary on March 31.

The country's most senior air force officer, Air Marshal Ray Funnell, told delegates that small countries in future would have to band together to face aggression. "The next generation (of aircraft) promises to be so expensive ... That few nations will be able to afford to acquire and operate them," he said.

"Neighbours of rich and powerful nations may have either to accept hegemony or become integrated allies," he said.

Air Marshall Funnell warned that "collective security" would mean giving up a measure of sovereignty, but he added, "that may be the price which small nations will have to pay to secure their futures. With high technology equating to high cost, what do you do if your potential opponent has high technology equipment and you cannot afford the equipment to counter it?" he asked.

He said that "the course for isolated nations such as Australia was more difficult to determine." Prof. Ball said, however, that it was vital for Australia to push for increased regional cooperation in defence.

Military aircraft were "inherently offensive" weapons and their purchase by one Southeast Asian country could lead to a regional arms race, Prof. Ball said.

He warned that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, might collapse if its members no longer perceived a direct threat from communism and took different stands on security.

Australia should assist regional air forces to develop common tactics, while pushing for "transparency" in defence planning to allay fears of the buildup, he said.

Air Marshal Funnell said that among the many lessons to be learned from the Gulf war it was clear that a combination of land, sea and air forces was necessary to win.

But Defence Minister Robert Ray, in a speech delivered for him by ADF head General Peter Gration, said that the lessons would have limited application for Australia.

"The strategic and military circumstances of the Gulf conflict could not be more different from those which our geostrategic environment makes more credible," Mr. Ray said. "Australia shares no land border with any country, and no country in our region has the offensive capabilities and intent of Iraq," the speech said.

Envoy Appointed to Saudi Arabia; Evans on Ties

BK2203081091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] The federal government has appointed a new ambassador to Saudi Arabia as part of a move to reestablish Australia's trade to the Gulf region in the wake of the war. Dr. Malcolm Leader will take up the posting in Riyadh in April.

In announcing the appointment, the foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, has signaled he expects the new ambassador to play a key role in strengthening Australia's bilateral ties in the region especially with Kuwait. Senator Evans says Australia's naval commitment during the recent Gulf war has boosted traditionally good ties in the region.

Hundreds of Plant Species Threatened by 'Plague'

BK2403151891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1457 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] Perth, Australia, March 24 (AFP)—A fungal disease spread by people is threatening to wipe out hundreds of plant species in the southwest of Western Australia, a conservation expert said here Sunday.

Syd Shea, executive director of the Western Australia Department of Conservation and Land Management, said as many as a million hectares (2.47 million acres) of bushland could be destroyed by the fungal scourge dieback disease.

There are about 1600 plant species in the affected area and two thirds of them could be lost, he said, adding that the problem had reached plague proportions.

Mr. Shea described the problem as "an environmental tragedy of world significance." He said susceptible plants

were often important food sources or habitats for animals such as the honey possum and birds, which could become hidden victims.

The fungus comes from the tropics and thrives in the warm, wet conditions in the state's south-west, where the soil is also conducive to the spread of the disease.

Humans are mainly responsible for the spread of dieback, he said. They carry the fungus on their footwear or on the wheels of vehicles. Banning public access to diseased areas was one of the most effective ways of checking the advance of the fungus, he said.

Fiji

Tourism Income Tops Sugar, Other Industries

BK2203125591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Suva, March 22 (AFP)—Fiji's income from foreign tourism hit record levels in 1990, outstripping earnings from sugar and other traditional commodities, the government statistician said Friday.

Earnings peaked at 335.9 million Fiji dollars (241.9 million U.S.)—up 14 per cent from 1989—from visits by a record 278,996 tourists, 14 per cent more than the previous year.

Statistician Hari Shankar attributed the unprecedented growth in foreign tourism to increased visitor arrivals from the United States, up 7.3 per cent over 1989, Australia, up 6.7 per cent, New Zealand, up 4.6 per cent and others, namely Japan and Europe, up 19.9 per cent.

He said the rise continued in the first two months of 1991, when 40,290 tourists visited Fiji, compared to 39,485 at the same time last year.

After a peak performance in 1986, Fiji's tourism industry took a knock in 1987 as a result of army coups and ensuing political instability. But the 1990 figures, said Mr Shankar, showed the industry had become the country's main foreign exchange earner.

Fiji's century-old export commodity, sugar, earned 244 million Fiji dollars (175.7 million U.S.) in 1990, while garments netted 161.2 million dollars (116 million U.S.) and gold 68.5 million dollars (49.3 million U.S.).

New Zealand

Help Offered To Resolve Bougainville Issue

BK2203075491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] New Zealand's deputy prime minister, Mr. Don McKinnon, said his country is prepared to do what it can to help resolve the Bougainville issue under the terms of the Honiara Declaration.

Speaking during a visit to Solomon Islands, Mr. McKinnon added that he would welcome contact from those on Bougainville if this was to help resolve what he described as a complex issue. He said the security and strategic interests of the South Pacific were of concern to New Zealand. For this reason, New Zealand was prepared to work together with regional countries to remove causes which might weaken their security.

Mr. McKinnon said that he had learned during his visit that one reason Honiara wanted the issue resolved was because of concern about the effects of events on Bougainville on the Western Solomons.

Premier To Allow Foreign Control of TV, Radio

BK2103132691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1050 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Wellington, March 21 (AFP)—Foreign interests will soon be allowed to own 100 per cent of television and radio stations in New Zealand, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Thursday.

Under current regulations they are limited to a 49.9 per cent share.

The change appears aimed at saving the country's only privately owned television network, TV3, which has been in receivership since May.

Australia's Channel 9 Network is said to be interested in acquiring TV3, which is already seven per cent owned by the U.S. Television Network NBC.

Mr. Bolger said in a statement that TV3 was "seriously at risk without higher overseas investment" and that it was important for it to remain on the air.

The chief executive of state-owned Television New Zealand, Julian Mounter, criticised abolition of the foreign ownership rule, describing it as "an error of judgment which could ultimately prove to be disastrous for broadcasting in this country."

Mr. Mounter said he knew of no other English-speaking country that allowed foreign ownership of a major broadcaster.

"I cannot believe that such a decision could be made without the fullest possible public debate," he said. "I believe in free markets and market-driven economies, but this is an aberration that could mean we are open to undue foreign influence on our screens."

But Mr. Bolger said "effectively, TV3 is already under overseas control by its major creditor, Westpac (Banking Corporation of Australia)."

"We believe that concerns about overseas investors dominating the New Zealand broadcasting industry and reducing local content are met by a range of adequate safeguards," the prime minister said.

He cited formal screening of overseas investors, laws against market domination and broadcast regulations against unfair or inaccurate news presentation.